



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Human rights report 2020

Activities and results of the foreign human rights policy of the Netherlands

Human rights report 2020 | Human rights report 2020



Foreword

The year 2020 was a difficult one for human rights defenders and civil society around the world. A number of governments used the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to make the lives of these groups more difficult through censorship, violence and deprivation of liberty. Some countries, like Belarus, did not even need the pretext of COVID-19 to increase state repression to an alarming degree.

The Belarusian opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya visited the Netherlands in May 2021. Her husband had been imprisoned in Belarus because he dared to declare himself a candidate for the presidency, and her children have been given refuge in Lithuania because of threats. On her tour of the European Union (EU) Tikhanovskaya asked for support in her fight against the dictatorship in her country. When asked what the EU can do to improve her situation, her answer was always the same: 'keep applying pressure' and 'be vocal'. Because continued pressure, through additional sanctions for example, will ultimately force the regime to the negotiating table.

Staying vocal and applying pressure are in fact two of the pillars of Dutch human rights policy. The Netherlands combines public pressure with quiet efforts behind the scenes, depending on what is most effective. Diplomats and policy officers at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs achieve tangible results on human rights all over the world through a wide variety of means, working in collaboration with their counterparts in other countries. When it comes to enforcing human rights standards and preventing human rights violations, there are no clear, simple guidelines on how to act. Sometimes you need quiet diplomacy and behind-the-scenes work at larger institutions, while at other times public protest or strong pressure are required.

Many Dutch diplomats have worked behind the scenes over the past year on behalf of human rights defenders at risk in various countries, including Egypt, Belarus, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, China and Russia, and we denounced the situation in countries like Myanmar, Yemen, China and Eritrea at the UN Human Rights Council. At the same time, the Netherlands announced it was holding Syria accountable for violations of the UN Convention against Torture. The Syrian regime responded by saying it was willing to enter into a dialogue. The Netherlands is following this up, in collaboration with Canada. These are only the first steps on a long road to justice, but they are significant.

The Netherlands has a constitutional duty to promote the development of the international legal order. We have therefore pressed for an impartial and independent international evidence database in Syria, and for an independent investigation mechanism for Myanmar. These initiatives will allow evidence of war crimes to be gathered, allowing perpetrators to be brought to justice. Without acknowledgement of flagrant injustices, it is difficult to achieve a stable future. There can be no peace without accountability.

The Netherlands also advocated successfully for a global EU sanctions regime banning human rights violators from entering Europe and allowing their assets and bank balances to be seized. The Netherlands played a leading role in the negotiations on the regime, which were completed in late 2020. The first sanctions have since been imposed, thus sending an important political signal: that human rights violations always have consequences.

In addition, the Netherlands again awarded the Human Rights Tulip and prize money of €100,000 to an extraordinary human rights defender. This year, the prize went to Lilit Martirosyan, the first registered transgender woman in Armenia. The award and the prize money will help her offer a safe home, plus legal and emotional support, to LGBTI people and sex workers in Armenia and the wider region. Finally, the Netherlands organised the 2020 World Press Freedom Conference, which was attended online by thousands of people, including ministers from 58 countries. The joint final declaration, the Hague Commitment to Increase the Safety of Journalists, sent a clear signal that journalists all over the world must be better protected.

These are just a few examples of the activities, programmes and efforts described in this report. This is how the Netherlands contributes to the international rule of law and a safer climate for human rights defenders around the world. Change is difficult to achieve, however, and these efforts do not always lead to immediate or tangible results. Precisely for this reason it is vital that we continue to make these efforts, for it is in countries where freedom and human rights cannot be taken for granted that brave human rights defenders need our help the most. To paraphrase Svetlana Tikhanovskaya: we must continue to raise our voices and apply pressure.

We must work in support of those who dare to fight for values and dignity. This report shows that the Netherlands does not shirk this responsibility.

Sigrid Kaag
Minister of Foreign Affairs

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Introduction

'The coronavirus outbreak is a test of our systems, values and humanity.'- Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Shortly after the global coronavirus outbreak began, Michelle Bachelet and Filippo Grandi wrote a joint article in which they discussed the many ways in which the pandemic would test our shared systems, values and humanity. 'Spreading rapidly around the world [...] the virus is stirring deep fears and anxieties,' they warned. 'When fear and uncertainty kick in, scapegoats are never far away.' They also highlighted the danger of repressive measures, social exclusion and discrimination of marginalised groups, as well as growing inequality.

There are countless examples that show how the prescient warnings issued by Michelle Bachelet and Filippo Grandi became a reality in 2020:

- Religious minorities have been accused of causing the spread of coronavirus.
- LGBTI people have been denied access to healthcare.
- There has been an increase in domestic violence against women during lockdowns.
- Free and independent media faced internet shutdowns and the arbitrary arrest of journalists.

The global health crisis has also left its mark on international human rights, and it was against this background that the Netherlands pursued its international human rights policy in 2020. The present report discusses the government's main results in the field of international human rights in a year dominated by coronavirus.

Structure of the report

The report focuses on six priorities of Dutch international human rights policy: freedom of expression and internet freedom, freedom of religion and belief, equal rights for LGBTI people, human rights defenders and strengthening civil society, equal rights for women and girls and the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes.

It also includes two additional thematic chapters on the human rights approach in foreign trade and development cooperation, and on peace, security and human rights. Human rights are firmly embedded in policy in both of these areas.

Each thematic chapter begins by listing some of the most striking results. At the start of the chapters on the six human rights priorities, the amount spent on the theme from the Human Rights Fund and other funds is indicated. These six chapters also each include a box highlighting some of the results.

The eight thematic chapters are preceded by a chapter which examines the government's cross-cutting efforts and results. It considers the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on compliance with human rights, strengthening and membership of the UN Human Rights Council and multilateral forums like the EU, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

The report gives a non-exhaustive overview of Dutch efforts and results. A wide range of instruments and channels were used in 2020, including bilateral diplomacy, multilateral negotiations, national and joint declarations, project funding from the Human Rights Fund and the formation of coalitions. The main text and an annexe indicate how motions adopted in parliament were implemented and incorporated into the report.

1. Global and multilateral human rights efforts

Impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic made 2020 an exceptional and challenging year, with huge physical, psychological and socioeconomic implications for virtually the entire global population. The pandemic made protecting human rights more difficult worldwide, and further increased the risks in many people's already fragile existence.

Our global network of embassies sent alarming reports of increases in unemployment, poverty and malnutrition as a direct consequence of lockdowns and their impact on the socioeconomic resilience of societies. The longer the crisis continued, the more worrying reports arrived of drastic, sometimes arbitrary, restrictions on fundamental freedoms. A number of governments used such measures not only to combat the virus, but also to suppress unwelcome criticism and developments. Emergency measures were abused, making the work of human rights defenders impossible, and restricting or removing journalists' ability to report.

Globally, there were developments that suggested an increase in gender-related violence. Already marginalised groups such as LGBTI people and religious minorities faced severe discrimination and stigmatisation. These groups were also often wrongly accused by some of causing the virus to spread. Partly as a result of this, they were often refused access to adequate healthcare. COVID measures were abused in order to undermine electoral processes and stifle dissident voices. Human rights defenders, political activists, lawyers and sometimes even medical workers faced persecution, harassment and surveillance after critical remarks on the authorities' response.

The virus therefore not only impacted on people's health and economic circumstances, but also on their fundamental rights and freedoms. In response, António Guterres, the UN Secretary-General, warned of a 'pandemic of human rights abuses'. This prompted the Netherlands to make extra efforts wherever it could in 2020 to ensure an international COVID-19 response in which human rights are respected. At international level, the Netherlands constantly emphasised that restrictions on human rights resulting from measures to tackle the pandemic must comply with the criteria laid

down in international human rights treaties. In accordance with the motion by MP Bram van Ojik et al. (Parliamentary Papers 32 735, no. 291), the Netherlands consistently highlighted the requirement that emergency measures be temporary and be lifted as soon as possible. At the UN, the Netherlands regularly called for the COVID-19 response to give extra consideration to vulnerable groups. Both of these points were included in the UN General Assembly's omnibus resolution on COVID-19, which was co-sponsored by the Netherlands. The resolution also calls for intensified international cooperation, solidarity and a people-centred and gender-responsive COVID-19 response with full respect for human rights standards.

COVID-19 makes clear the vital importance of a human rights approach in response to crises, with specific consideration of the most vulnerable groups and room for participation. The Netherlands plans to use the UN Secretary-General's 'Building Back Better' agenda to further enhance the human rights dimensions of multilateral development cooperation.

Besides its international cooperation efforts, the Netherlands also pursued an active policy designed to mitigate the practical impact of the pandemic on already vulnerable groups. Dutch embassies all over the world were given extra scope to take action to tackle COVID-19's effects on already marginalised groups. In Kazakhstan, for example, the embassy helped ensure that LGBTI people retained access to adequate healthcare and legal services. A Colombian civil society organisation provided virtual training, with Dutch support, to help community leaders provide psychosocial support for members of local communities.

At European level, too, considerable attention was focused on the human rights impact of the pandemic. High Representative Josep Borrell conveyed the EU's message that human rights must be at the core of the fight against the virus and of global recovery efforts.

In December 2020 work began on EU Council conclusions on the importance of a human-rights-based recovery after COVID-19. They were adopted by the Foreign Affairs Council

in February 2021.¹ The Netherlands lobbied, among other things, for the report to point out that LGBTI people have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, and that emergency measures must be temporary, proportionate and non-discriminatory, absolutely necessary, and based in law.

The Council of Europe (CoE) also devoted a great deal of attention to the impact of COVID-19. Shortly after the outbreak of the pandemic, it issued a toolkit for national authorities with guidance on tackling the disease. It also emphasised that the European Convention on Human Rights applies to all measures introduced by governments to fight the pandemic. The chair of GREVIO, the body responsible for monitoring the Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, warned of the implications of restrictions on freedom of movement for women and children at risk of domestic violence.

European Union

Besides COVID-19, the EU human rights agenda was dominated in 2020 by three important sets of negotiations: on the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024, on the establishment of an EU global human rights sanctions regime, and on EU efforts in support of gender equality.

In the talks on these action plans, instruments and Council conclusions, Dutch efforts focused firstly on an ambitious EU human rights agenda encompassing Dutch human rights priorities. Despite strong opposition, this led to the Dutch human rights priorities 'freedom of religion and belief', 'equal rights for LGBTI people' and 'gender equality including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)' being firmly embedded in the action plans and Council conclusions eventually adopted.² The key role of civil society organisations was also underlined. Dutch efforts, up to and including by Prime Minister Mark Rutte, in concert with like-minded EU countries, helped ensure that existing standards on gender equality, SRHR and equal rights for LGBTI people were maintained in these plans, Council conclusions and other relevant EU documents.

Secondly, thanks in part to Dutch input, there was a positive result in terms of an EU human rights sanctions regime. On 7 December 2020 intensive political and diplomatic efforts over the course of two years were rewarded with the establishment of the EU human rights sanctions regime (see also Parliamentary Papers 21501-02, no. 225).

In accordance with the Netherlands' wishes, the regime will allow sanctions to be imposed in response to a broad

spectrum of serious human rights abuses. The sanctions will be designed to bring about a change in behaviour and discourage new abuses. The EU has thus sent an important political signal: that violating human rights is not without consequences. Thanks to the thematic and global nature of the regime, the EU is no longer dependent on a geographical sanctions regime to introduce restrictions against human rights abusers, who can also be refused admission to EU territory and have their financial assets frozen. The human rights sanctions regime is thus an important addition to the set of human rights instruments at the EU's disposal. The Netherlands will continue to work actively to use existing sanctions regimes to combat human rights violations.

Council of Europe

Last year the Council of Europe marked the 70th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) – which now total over 20,000 – have had a major impact on the promotion of the international legal order across the continent, and often beyond.

On 10 July 2020 the government decided to submit to the ECtHR an interstate complaint against the Russian Federation for its part in the shooting down of flight MH17, in order to offer maximum support for the individual complaints submitted by relatives of the victims.

The Netherlands also worked to strengthen the system for encouraging compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights. The evaluation of the Interlaken Process was completed in November, allowing the ECtHR's huge caseload to be tackled more effectively. The Netherlands plays a constructively critical role at meetings of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, which oversees the implementation of the court's judgments. It played an active role, for example, in such cases as Navalny v. Russia, Kavala v. Turkey and the Mammadov Group v. Azerbaijan.

The Commissioner for Human Rights and other Council of Europe officials have regularly released strongly-worded statements and called upon countries to respect international human rights standards and comply with ECtHR judgments. There was a particular focus on the unrest in Belarus and the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Over the past year, the Netherlands also worked to promote cooperation between the Council of Europe and other international players like the EU, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the UN and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

¹ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6324-2021-INIT/en/pdf>.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/46838/st12848-en20.pdf>.

Development (OECD). In this respect, the Council of Europe's contribution to the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the EU's Annual Report on the Rule of Law are very welcome.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

In his intervention at the online Ministerial Council of the OSCE on 3 and 4 December, the then Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs denounced the violence against peaceful demonstrators in Belarus. He called on the authorities to cooperate with the OSCE, enter into dialogue with the opposition, and heed the recommendations in the report issued as part of the Moscow Mechanism, which was co-initiated by the Netherlands. As regards the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Minister urged that an independent investigation be conducted into the use of phosphorus, cluster munitions and foreign combatants in the conflict, and into possible war crimes and human rights abuses. The Netherlands also used the Ministerial Council as an opportunity to convene an online roundtable meeting with human rights defenders on the theme of corruption. A report of the meeting was submitted to parliament on 17 December 2020 (Parliamentary Paper 35570-V, no. 64).

The annual meeting under the third pillar of the OSCE, the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM), could not be held because of COVID-19. The Albanian Chairmanship made sustained efforts to reach a consensus on a version of the HDIM that would allow online attendance. The Netherlands supported the proposal, but the required consensus could not be achieved. Albania organised several online events in collaboration with ODHR, to ensure that civil society organisations still had a platform and input. This did not however fully compensate for the cancellation of the HDIM. The Netherlands will therefore do its utmost to ensure that the HDIM, the most important forum for dialogue with civil society, goes ahead in 2021.

Engaged member of the UN Human Rights Council

On 1 January 2020 the Kingdom of the Netherlands became a member of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) for the fourth time. The Kingdom regards the HRC as the leading UN forum for the protection and promotion of human rights. The HRC also plays an increasingly important role in tackling impunity. The Netherlands is therefore proud to be an active and engaged member. The letter to parliament on the Kingdom of the Netherlands' position at the UN Human Rights Council (2020-2022) describes in detail the input that the Netherlands is making during its current term of membership. These efforts centre on Dutch human rights policy, and on compliance with the motion by MP Sjoerd Sjoerdsma et al. (Parliamentary Paper 35 300-V no. 33) on press freedom, equal rights for LGBTI people and

protection of religious minorities as focal points at the UN Human Rights Council, and the motion submitted by MPs Lilianne Ploumen and Bram van Ojik (Parliamentary Paper 35 300-V no. 35) on strengthening the Human Rights Council.

The Human Rights Council is the only UN body that remained fully functional during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The Netherlands was unflagging in its efforts to keep civil society organisations, human rights defenders and victims of abuses engaged, in order to make their voices heard at the HRC. It also successfully resisted attempts by China, Russia and other countries during HRC sessions to weaken the human rights system. In 2020 the Netherlands actively campaigned for the gradual phasing out of the separate agenda item 7 (Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories), in accordance with the motion by MP Kees van der Staaij (Parliamentary Paper 34 775, no. 44). Resolutions were combined and transferred to other agenda items, helping to reduce the disproportionate focus on Israel.

The pressure on human rights and on the multilateral system is increasing in the Human Rights Council as it is elsewhere, however. A growing group of countries are advocating cultural relativism in regard to human rights, increasingly indicating that interference in internal affairs will not be tolerated. Countries under HRC monitoring, like Belarus and Eritrea, refuse to cooperate with its mechanisms. At the same time, the system is at risk of implosion due to an ongoing rise in the number of reports and extension of human rights mandates without any concomitant growth in financial resources.

One key focal point of the Netherlands' membership is thus strengthening the HRC, with an emphasis on the responsibilities that come with HRC membership and the importance of accountability on the part of its members. The then Minister of Foreign Affairs mentioned this specifically during his opening speech at the first session in February 2020, and this issue was also the subject of interventions by the Dutch Human Rights Ambassador in the margins of the session. At the HRC session in September, the Netherlands submitted a joint declaration on behalf of 45 countries setting the objective of obliging all prospective members to present their intentions. At the meeting of the UN General Assembly's Third Committee in October, the EU stressed the importance of HRC members' accounting for their actions on the Council. The Netherlands then launched discussions with like-minded countries and the President of the General Assembly to introduce this step by step, and to enhance the HRC's strength and credibility.

Working with the United Kingdom, the Netherlands

attempted via an informal network (contact group) in Geneva to make countries aware of the opportunities and importance of HRC membership. This broad-based group of countries are working to persuade small countries and island states in particular to become involved in the HRC, and interest them in membership. The Netherlands' strong support for the UN human rights system was demonstrated again in 2020 by its emphatic endorsement of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights.

Achieving human rights requires adequate funding, as well as more effectively focused efforts. Only a small percentage (less than 5%) of the entire UN budget is currently spent on human rights. The Netherlands therefore takes a leading role in budget negotiations in the UN General Assembly's Fifth Committee, and in 2020 launched a plea to the Secretary-General for an increase in the regular budget for human rights. This call, supported by a wide-ranging group of like-minded countries, is designed to persuade the Secretary-General to increase the UN human rights budget in 2022. Given the importance of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in safeguarding human rights during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Netherlands increased its voluntary annual contribution to the organisation in 2020, with an emphasis on its work for freedom of religion and belief, freedom of expression and efforts to combat impunity.

Effective human rights policy in relations with China

In the parliamentary committee meeting on the Human Rights Report in June 2020, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs undertook to explain in the next report how the motion by MP Bram van Ojik (Parliamentary Paper 32 735, no. 290) is being implemented. In accordance with this motion, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working to enhance the impact of human rights policy on China, firstly by increasing support for human rights at international level. Of course the Netherlands already works with like-minded countries at the EU and UN, but it will also enter into discussions with less traditional partners to generate broader non-Western support. Secondly, the Netherlands works actively at the UN Human Rights Council and in other forums for the universality of human rights to be protected, to counterbalance narratives that undermine the universality of these rights. Thirdly, the Netherlands works to achieve greater impact, along with EU partners and other like-minded countries, issuing joint demarches, statements and sanctions under the EU human rights sanctions regime. Furthermore, the Netherlands will continue to call in multilateral and bilateral talks for independent investigators to be given unhindered access to Xinjiang. Finally, the Netherlands is keen to prevent Dutch companies from contributing to repressive practices in China. Given the serious allegations set out in international

reports and the limited scope for companies to exercise due diligence, it may be appropriate for relations with business partners in China to be terminated, in accordance with the OECD Guidelines. The government conveys this message in its communications with industry.

International corporate social responsibility (ICSR) is a long-term strategy which is set to become even more important in the future, particularly now that European ICSR legislation is being developed. Businesses would do well to prepare themselves now by exercising due diligence, in line with international standards. The government supports legislation on ICSR, preferably at EU level, as a joint approach will increase the influence of European industry and guarantee a level playing field. Such legislation would provide more clarity for companies as to how to deal with abuses in their international value chains. Besides introducing mandatory measures, the government also focuses on making government support and purchasing conditional on sectoral cooperation to tackle abuses in the supply chains of Dutch companies, and on providing information for companies. Information is offered in talks and at meetings (where supply chain transparency and the risks of doing business in Xinjiang are also discussed), in the CSR risk checker, under the Fund for Responsible Business and the website StartmetOESOrichtlijnen.nl. The diplomatic missions network in China has a list of due diligence service providers, gives advice, and can support businesses in their discussions with the Chinese authorities concerning compliance with ICSR principles. ICSR is always an integral part of the information provided on doing business in China. The Dutch government does not issue export permits for dual-use goods if there are concerns about human rights abuses. For certain permits, the government also requires businesses to have an internal compliance programme, which must state explicitly what efforts a company is making to minimise the risk of human rights violations.

Human Rights Ambassador and Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion and Belief

The Human Rights Ambassador and the Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion and Belief – positions held by Bahia Tahzib-Lie and Jos Douma respectively in 2020 – play an important role in promoting human rights policy. By 2020 the post of Human Rights Ambassador had existed for 20 years. Although many of the country visits and other physical meetings planned for 2020 could not go ahead because of COVID-19, the Human Rights Ambassador and the Special Envoy took part in many online interactions during which they engaged with other countries and partners, and were able to express the Netherlands' concerns about specific human rights situations and discuss opportunities for cooperation.

In February 2020 the Human Rights Ambassador visited Geneva during the Human Rights Council for various bilateral discussions and meetings with human rights defenders. She also paid visits to the OSCE and the EU, where she raised several of the Netherlands' policy priorities. The Ambassador participated in numerous online consultations, discussions and informal talks with civil society organisations, human rights defenders, authorities, experts and students in Bangladesh, Hungary, Mexico, South Africa, Zimbabwe and other countries. Online talks proved to be an accessible and inclusive alternative. The virtual nature of the meetings also allowed the Ambassador to take part in several events in different places all over the world on the same day.

Since many activities moved online in 2020, the Human Rights Ambassador took the initiative of strengthening the network of nine European human rights ambassadors and the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, who combined forces strategically to convey a common message. This resulted in more than twenty joint statements being issued by European human rights ambassadors on social media, including on the negative impact of COVID-19 on

certain vulnerable groups such as LGBTI people, women and girls, and journalists. The European human rights ambassadors also adopted statements on the repression of human rights defenders, such as imprisoned women's rights activists in Saudi Arabia and the Iranian human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh.

The mandate of the Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion and Belief has three core elements: promoting freedom of religion and belief in general and individually, building a network in the Netherlands and abroad, and promoting awareness within the Ministry of the importance of religion for diplomacy and development.

The Envoy took action on individual violations of freedom of religion and belief mainly through Dutch embassies and embassies of like-minded countries, and also on social media. Bilateral consultations were held only with like-minded Canada. Other planned talks (generally in response to requests from parliament) had to be postponed. However, the COVID crisis has provided extra opportunities to build an international network to promote freedom of religion and belief.

 **Bahia Tahzib-Lie**  @BTahzibLie · 22 okt. 2020 ...

'Mrs Sotoudeh's life is in danger (...)

We call on [#Iran](#) to release [#NasrinSotoudeh](#), along with all others imprisoned for defending [#humanrights](#).'

 [Joint Statement by the 9 European #HumanRightsAmbassadors](#)



[Joint Statement from 9 European Human Rights Ambassadors
On the Imprisonment of Nasrin Sotoudeh in Iran](#)

We are deeply troubled by reports about Nasrin Sotoudeh's deteriorating health and her sudden transfer to Qarchak prison. She was on hunger strike in protest against the imprisonment of political prisoners and poor detention conditions in Iran. Mrs Sotoudeh's life is in danger and she urgently needs proper medical treatment outside of prison.

Promoting human rights strengthens states and societies and helps prevent conflict. It is imperative that human rights defenders are able to work without fear of reprisals. We call on Iran to release Nasrin Sotoudeh, along with all others imprisoned for defending human rights.



Statement by the European human rights ambassadors on Iranian human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh.

The meeting of the Human Rights Council in Geneva was one of the last events to which the Envoy, like the Human Rights Ambassador, was able to travel to attend in person. While there, he discussed how the Istanbul Process (for tolerance and freedom of expression) might be continued. Pakistan had announced at the meeting in The Hague in November 2019 that it would convene the next meeting. Since then, it has done little and the Special Envoy is now working – mainly in collaboration with the US and the UN Special Rapporteur – to secure a meeting of substance in 2021.

In 2020 the Special Envoy managed to build a useful network in the Netherlands, aided by the development cooperation programmes Civic Engagement (to the end of 2020) and Power of Voices (from 2021), in which Dutch and foreign organisations inspired by religious and ideological convictions are working together to build a stronger civil

society. The COVID-19 crisis has added a new dimension to these programmes and networks. The organisations concerned can help religious groups in the fight against the virus and its effects, and with the introduction of and respect for measures. Consultations with interest groups were stepped up as a result of COVID-19. The Special Envoy also held talks (online) with various organisations and groups, including Humanist International, the Baha'i community and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Efforts have been made to broaden and deepen knowledge of religion, diplomacy and development cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion and Belief conducted a number of sessions with the Academy for International Relations at which Ministry staff reflected on dealing with religion and religious actors.



Jos Douma ✓ @Jos_Douma · 18 aug. 2020
Joint statement by 🇷🇺 🇮🇹 🇦🇺 🇧🇷 🇧🇪 🇩🇪 🇪🇪 🇫🇷 🇮🇸 🇯🇵 🇰🇷 🇱🇹 🇺🇰 🇺🇸

We call for full respect for human right to **#FoRB** during **COVID-19** pandemic.
Any measure/response should not be used to silence, target, or harass any members of civil society.

The Dutch Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion and Belief and other members of the International Religious Freedom and Belief Alliance drew attention to the impact of COVID-19 on freedom of religion and belief and the position of religious minorities.

2. Freedom of expression & internet freedom



Highlights

- Successful organisation of World Press Freedom Conference, resulting in political declaration supported by 58 countries
- Dutch-initiated resolution on freedom of expression and access to information adopted by consensus at the Human Rights Council
- Safety of 162 journalists improved using support from the Free Press Unlimited emergency fund

Funds

€ 18,601,684 from the Human Rights Fund
€ 13,868,762 from other funds

Introduction

The importance of access to reliable and independent information was highlighted in 2020 as part of the global approach to the COVID-19 pandemic. In early February the WHO warned of an 'infodemic': the rapid spread of inaccurate information and rumours. A lack of access to reliable information even prevented many people's receiving advice on basic hygiene, such as hand washing.

At the same time, journalists faced restrictions in many parts of the world. Governments used the pandemic as a pretext to introduce measures that disproportionately restrict the freedom and independence of the media, with internet shutdowns, aggression against journalists, arbitrary arrest of journalists and other forms of censorship. Such actions are in violation of international standards and agreements on freedom of expression.

Freedom of expression and a free and diverse media landscape are important to every society, not only when there is a pandemic. The Dutch government is continuing to work to (1) promote access to information, including a free, safe and open internet; (2) enhance the safety of journalists all over the world, particularly female journalists; (3) promote press freedom, including an open, diverse and pluralistic media landscape. This is vital in calling governments, companies and institutions to account for their actions and in highlighting their responsibility.

Press freedom and a pluralistic and diverse media landscape

The Netherlands is a member of the Media Freedom Coalition established in 2019. This partnership of countries campaigns for press freedom, greater safety for journalists and accountability for those who harm or threaten them. Its methods include statements and diplomatic interventions in individual cases. The coalition, which currently has 43 members, continues to grow. The Netherlands plays an active role in the Executive Group and helps shape the coalition's strategy. The Media Freedom Coalition issued several statements in 2020, both on general issues (such as COVID-19) and on individual cases or country-specific situations (such as China, Uganda and the Philippines).

The United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) is the UN agency with a mandate to promote freedom of expression, the safety of journalists and independent media, and access to information. In 2020 the Netherlands increased the support it gives to the related pillar of UNESCO, the Communication & Information sector. It will remain a member of the Bureau of UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) in 2021. Every year, IPDC funds some 70 local projects around the world. It supports media projects, and strives to create a healthy climate in which a free and pluralistic media can flourish in developing countries. IPDC worked with Colombia and Pakistan, for example, helping to build their national capacity for effective monitoring of and reporting on the safety of journalists. At the request of the Netherlands, in 2020 eight additional projects on national capacity building were approved to ensure better monitoring and reporting of progress on SDG 16.10.1 (safety of journalists) and SDG

16.10.2 (access to information) in several countries, including Tanzania and Iraq.

The Dutch Human Rights Fund also works with a large number of civil society organisations to promote press freedom and a diverse and pluralistic media landscape.

The Netherlands supports several programmes run by the Dutch organisation RNW Media, which builds online communities for social change together with local partners, human rights experts and young changemakers. It uses online media to get young people involved in socially relevant issues such as sexuality education and civic participation. RNW Media's Love Matters programme focuses on open and honest education about SRHR in places where such information is often censored or is regarded as taboo. RNW Media's platform in Libya, *Huna Libya*, has stepped up its efforts to tackle gender-related violence by launching a campaign with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) there, in response to a sudden dramatic increase in gender-related violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. Women were forced to stay home with their abusers, so in order to deal with this unexpected challenge, UNFPA and *Huna Libya* ran eight campaigns in 2020 on a range of issues associated with gender-related violence, such as forced marriage, intimate partner violence, freedom of choice and online sexual harassment. The campaigns went viral, reaching 800,000 to 1.8 million users, roughly one sixth of the Libyan population.

Large numbers of women took part in the campaign, thousands of them frankly sharing their experiences. Their accounts unleashed a wave of debate on issues associated with gender-related violence.

As part of the Dialogue and Dissent policy framework, which was funded from the Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation budget, the Netherlands made efforts in several countries to create a safe environment for journalists to work in, in strategic partnership with the Dutch organisation Free Press Unlimited (FPU). One of those countries is Indonesia. In 2016 FPU and Tempo Media launched the Investigate with Tempo programme, with the ambition of creating a new generation of investigative journalists from local media to investigate the problems of 'ordinary people' as a way of monitoring the powers that be. The programme selects talented journalists from local media outside the capital and awards them a grant that allows them to spend six months investigating matters affecting the lives of local residents and communities. Subjects covered have included human trafficking, climate, corruption, human rights and crime. During the five years of the programme, many journalists have been able to work on stories that brought about actual social change.

Independent media organisations in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine work together in the FPU project Viable Media for Empowered Societies (VIMES). They share knowledge,

World Press Freedom Conference 2020

The Netherlands and UNESCO hosted the World Press Freedom Conference (WPFC) on 9 and 10 December 2020, partly at the instigation of the Dutch parliament (see the motion by MPs Lilianne Ploumen and Sjoerd Sjoerdsma, Parliamentary Papers 35000 V, no. 30). Over 3,500 participants from 133 countries registered for the virtual conference, which was broadcast live from the World Forum in The Hague. Thousands of others followed the livestream on social media. Around twenty sessions took place in the form of talk shows and other journalistic formats, featuring well-known speakers from all over the world, including Christiane Amanpour, Amal Clooney and Hatice Cengiz, the fiancée of murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

In the margins of the conference, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs held online roundtable talks with other foreign ministers from almost 60 countries, who endorsed the Hague Commitment to Increase the Safety of Journalists. This declaration calls for independent investigation and prosecution of all attacks, in whatever form, on journalists and media staff, both online and offline. The Netherlands also announced it would be investing an additional €7 million to promote press freedom and the safety of journalists worldwide, in accordance with the agreements reached. It will do so in collaboration with UNESCO and OHCHR. Particular consideration will be given to the position of female journalists, access to information, and an end to impunity for crimes against journalists. The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation also spoke at the conference about the importance of press freedom and the safety of journalists worldwide.

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNESCO, the Asser Institute and Free Press Unlimited (FPU) launched a Forum of Legal Actors on Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists at WPF 2020. Over the coming years, the Forum will bring together judges, prosecutors, lawyers and representatives of judicial institutions all over the world to strengthen the role of legal actors in defending the universal right to freedom of expression.

The World Press Freedom Conference won the Dutch events industry's Golden Giraffe Event Award in the category Congresses & Knowledge Events. The UN Secretary-General has expressed interest in using the innovative concept of the conference as a format for the forthcoming General Assembly.



Worldwide opening of the 2020 World Press Freedom Conference: Setting the Scene for #PressFreedom with the talk show 'Stories from Frontline Champions of Press Freedom'. Left to right: Humberto Tan (presenter), Maria Ressa (founder and editor of Rappler), Elisabeth Bumiller (assistant editor of The New York Times), Nima Elbagir (senior correspondent at CNN), Stef Blok (former Minister of Foreign Affairs and host of the conference)

skills and content with the aim of strengthening their position as media in their own societies. Partners learn to convert stories from a traditional written format to a multimedia format, for example.

The participating media organisations all face growing political and financial pressure because of their groundbreaking reporting and pro-democratic stance. This means they face regular threats to their safety. In March 2020 FPU organised practical safety training for seven female journalists from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine, to enhance their physical security. They learned how to avoid arrest, how to cope with interrogation and how to respond appropriately when their homes are searched.

Dutch embassies all over the world also make an active contribution to press freedom. One example is the support provided by the embassy in Bujumbura for a number of

independent local media organisations, which played a crucial role in informing the population of Burundi about the COVID-19 pandemic and preventive measures. They were also virtually the only media organisations that reported the key developments during the elections, and thus an important source of information both for the people of Burundi and for the international community.

Safety of journalists

In the runup to World Press Freedom Day on 3 May, the Human Rights Ambassador launched a social media campaign to draw attention to the situation of journalists murdered or imprisoned because of their work, such as Ahmed Abdul Samad and Safaa Ghali in Iraq, Houayheuang Xayabouly in Laos, José Libardo Montenegro in Colombia and Roberto Quiñones in Cuba. This gave the Netherlands an opportunity to highlight this serious global problem. The Ambassador also spoke with and about journalists (mainly online), including talks with the Mexican

authorities about the problem of impunity for violence against journalists.

The Netherlands worked with FPU to create a safe environment in which journalists can do their work. To ensure that journalists are protected and can continue working despite threats or attacks, FPU has launched the Reporters Respond emergency fund for journalists, with Dutch support. Since it was established in 2011 the fund has provided direct support for 693 journalists. Unfortunately, demand for its services is rising inexorably. In 2020 alone, the fund assisted 162 journalists in need. FPU used the emergency fund to help journalists pay travel and subsistence costs, and provide advice on online or physical security, such as secure VPN connections, medical and psychological care and means of protection (particularly against COVID-19).

FPU also has a Legal Defense Fund to provide legal assistance to journalists who are being threatened or persecuted, or who have been arrested or illegally detained. The Netherlands contributes to this emergency fund. In 2020 FPU provided financial support for lawyers' fees, legal costs, temporary accommodation and support for relatives.

Since it was established in 2019 the Legal Defense Fund has supported 373 journalists; this shows how great the need is. The number of SLAPPs³ brought against critical journalists and media has increased exponentially in recent years. The Legal Defense Fund contributed to the defence in nine libel cases against critical journalist Maria Ressa in the Philippines and 25 cases against family members of the murdered Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.

FPU also tries to provide support in cases with the potential to lead to major legal change. In 2020, for example, it worked with an international legal practice and its local partner in Somaliland on a case brought before the Supreme Court to ensure that journalists are prosecuted under media laws, instead of under criminal law, as is now the case. FPU also highlights the specific threats faced by female journalists in their work, such as intimidation (both online and offline), sexual harassment and threats in the workplace. It developed training specifically for female journalists in 2020, which is being rolled out in 2021.

One example of the use of the mission network in support of the safety of journalists is the role of the Dutch embassy in Mexico.



Demonstration against attacks on journalists by paramilitary groups in Venezuela in 2020. Photo: Rafael Hernández

³ SLAPP: Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation.

For some time now, Mexico has for many years been one of the most dangerous countries in the Western Hemisphere for members of the press and journalists.⁴ The embassy acts as EU rapporteur on the subject of press freedom and safety of journalists. It was the first point of contact for institutions dealing with these issues and civil society organisations. The embassy managed to ensure that the subject of press freedom was explicitly addressed in the human rights dialogue between the EU and Mexico last summer.

Access to information and a free, open and secure internet

During the first year of its membership of the UN Human Rights Council, the Netherlands joined with Brazil, Canada, Fiji, Namibia and Sweden to initiate Resolution 44/12 on freedom of opinion and expression, and access to information. The resolution was adopted by consensus on 16 July 2020. At previous sessions, there had been no normative discussion of the right to freedom of expression at the Human Rights Council, as it was considered a sensitive subject on which consensus did not seem possible. Thanks in part to the Netherlands' efforts, the HRC has now confirmed that freedom of expression and access to information are essential for the protection of other human rights, democracy and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Human rights activists, journalists, lawyers and other stakeholders can now refer to the resolution as a standard-setting framework.

A free, open and secure internet is crucial for access to information. Unfortunately, however, COVID-19 has accelerated the downward trend in internet freedom.⁵ In 2020 various independent news websites and journalists were for example censored on the pretext that they were spreading disinformation. There were also internet shutdowns in a number of countries, including Ethiopia, India, Myanmar and Yemen. These measures resulted in important information, including on the spread of coronavirus in the country and knowledge of basic measures to tackle it, being inaccessible to millions of people.

Despite this downward trend, the Netherlands continues to campaign for a free, open and secure internet. It is a

member of the Freedom Online Coalition (FOC), a diplomatic coalition of 32 member states that campaigns to ensure a free, open and secure internet around the world on which human rights are accepted. The Netherlands took the lead within the coalition on a joint statement on the human rights impact of cybersecurity laws, practices and policies. The statement underlines the fact that cybersecurity is more than simply the security of data and systems, and is in fact about real people and their data.⁶ The statement was used in debates at the UN both in New York and in Geneva. It was for example cited several times at a meeting of the Open-ended Working Group discussing the status of the international legal order online. The statement also prompted the Netherlands to join forces with Estonia and Ghana to organise a meeting that brought together cybersecurity experts from the UN General Assembly's First Committee in New York and human rights experts from Geneva to discuss ways of strengthening the human rights approach to cybersecurity.

As well as a statement on human rights and cybersecurity policy, the Netherlands called at the FOC and the Human Rights Council for clear conditions pertaining to the use of contact tracing apps in the fight against COVID-19, to prevent them from violating fundamental rights like the right to privacy.⁷ The FOC also issued statements on digital inclusion,⁸ artificial intelligence and human rights,⁹ and the spread of disinformation online.¹⁰ The Netherlands was closely involved in the drafting of these statements, and acted as coordinator of the FOC statement on the impact of cybersecurity laws and policies on human rights.

In its efforts to guarantee a free, open and secure internet, the Netherlands works with various civil society organisations. In 2020, for example, it supported Access Now's efforts to draw more political attention to internet shutdowns, and contributed to Freedom House's work monitoring internet freedom. The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) developed CivicSpace.tech, an interactive tool partly funded by the Netherlands that shows how technologies like artificial intelligence and 5G bring both opportunities and risks for human rights and civil society.

⁴ <https://cpj.org/reports/2020/12/murders-journalists-more-than-doubled-killed/>.

⁵ Each year the NGO Freedom House publishes the Freedom on the Net Report. The 2020 report can be accessed here: [The Pandemic's Digital Shadow | Freedom House](#).

⁶ FOC Joint Statement on Human Rights Impact of Cybersecurity Laws, Practices and Policies: <https://freedomonlinecoalition.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FOC-Joint-Statement-on-the-Human-Rights-Impact-of-Cybersecurity-Laws-Practices-and-Policies.pdf>.

⁷ FOC Joint Statement on COVID-19 and Internet Freedom: <https://freedomonlinecoalition.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FOC-Joint-Statement-on-COVID-19-and-Internet-Freedom.pdf>.

⁸ FOC Joint Statement on Digital Inclusion: <https://freedomonlinecoalition.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FOC-Joint-Statement-on-Digital-Inclusion.pdf>.

⁹ FOC Joint Statement on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights: <https://freedomonlinecoalition.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FOC-Joint-Statement-on-Artificial-Intelligence-and-Human-Rights.pdf>.

¹⁰ FOC Joint Statement on Spread of Disinformation Online: <https://freedomonlinecoalition.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FOC-Joint-Statement-on-Spread-of-Disinformation-Online.pdf>.

In 2020 the Netherlands again supported the organisation of RightsCon, the biggest annual conference on human rights in a digital world, which was fully online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Netherlands was well represented, hosting several online panels and workshops on human rights. Two of the sessions organised by the Netherlands involved discussions with local civil society organisations and social movements of their experiences with shrinking online civic space, the importance of digital security and the work of the FOC. The Human Rights

Ambassador attended both sessions, at which participants also shared their experiences with ensuring secure online communication between human rights defenders and diplomats.

3. Freedom of religion and belief



Highlights

- The Netherlands was vice-chair of the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance (IRFBA), established in 2020.
- Dutch-supported AGHS Legal Aid Cell provided legal assistance in 59 court cases and facilitated bail for 223 religious prisoners in Pakistan.
- Six Baha'i who had been wrongfully imprisoned in Yemen since 2013 because of their faith were released, thanks in part to the Netherlands' efforts.

Funds

€ 4,583,726 from the Human Rights Fund
€ 58,594 from other funds

Introduction

COVID-19 has had an impact on freedom of religion and belief as on other human rights. Restrictions imposed in response to the virus meant that local places of worship had to close. Religious minorities faced discrimination and stigmatisation, were accused of causing or spreading the virus or were denied care. The UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief expressed his concerns in these conditions about the growing intolerance towards religious minorities and called on countries to guarantee fair access to healthcare.

These developments, and the already dire situations of some religious minorities all over the world, show the importance of a continued focus on the right to freedom of religion and belief. The Netherlands does not distinguish in this respect between religious (or indeed non-religious) groups, and makes as much effort to improve the situation of Christian minorities as it does for non-believers, Baha'is, Muslims and other religious groups that face discrimination and persecution. It works to ensure the implementation of and compliance with international standards to reduce discrimination and persecution of religious groups worldwide. We also seek to create a tolerant and inclusive religious climate, both in religious communities and in broader society, and strong international coalitions to promote freedom of religion and belief everywhere.

Combating persecution of and discrimination against religious minorities

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic's negative repercussions on freedom of religion and belief, there were also positive developments in 2020. The transitional government in Sudan abolished the death penalty for apostasy, for example, a development that the Netherlands and like-minded countries publicly welcomed.¹

The Netherlands also worked on a range of projects to bring local practices into line with international standards. In more conservative Muslim settings, it seeks to improve respect for women's rights and freedom of religion and belief. In Kenya it helped raise women's awareness of equal rights for women and girls, and helped improve women's access to religious (Kadi) courts. With the aid of local organisations, in 2020 it developed an accessible toolkit to explain the procedures and women's rights in these courts (in respect of marriage, divorce and inheritance, for example). In Burundi the Netherlands worked on an inclusive Islamic curriculum for children, with a focus on women's rights and freedom of religion and belief. This inclusive curriculum was taught to 3,441 men and 647 women in 2020.

At international level, the Netherlands used the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the UN Human Rights Council to encourage governments to comply with international human rights standards. The Netherlands recommended, for example, that Mauritania remove blasphemy and apostasy from its criminal code in order to promote freedom of religion and belief.

In countries that do not comply with international human rights standards in respect of religion and belief,

¹ <https://www.government.nl/documents/diplomatic-statements/2020/08/26/joint-statement-on-sudan>.

the Netherlands supported religious minorities facing discrimination. Using resources from the Human Rights Fund, the Netherlands gave religious minorities in Pakistan access to legal assistance. Dutch support helped AGHS Legal Aid Cell provide legal aid in 59 court cases in 2020, and facilitate bail for 223 religious prisoners in Pakistan. The organisation provided legal assistance to a 14-year-old boy of Hindustani origin, for example. In this specific case, the judge rejected the custody application of the neighbour who had persuaded the boy to convert to Islam. Such a court order creates a positive precedent for parents who risk losing parental authority when their minor children have been forced to convert to another faith. AGHS Legal Aid Cell also provided legal assistance in *habeas corpus* petitions from several minor girls who had been abducted and forced to convert, an issue that the then Minister of Foreign Affairs raised in talks with his Pakistani counterpart. Furthermore, Freedom House received support from the Human Rights Fund in 2020 to offer emergency assistance in 149 cases of individuals who had suffered threats because of their religion or belief, or because they stood up for freedom of religion and belief.

The Netherlands worked actively with the US and the UK, both publicly and behind the scenes, to secure the release of six Baha'is in Yemen, including the Yemini Baha'i leader Hamed bin Haydara. The religious prisoners were released in 2020, thanks to collaboration with the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and many civil society organisations.

Dutch efforts for non-believers worldwide

The Netherlands undertakes various efforts to promote the rights of non-believers around the world. In accordance with the commitment made in the parliamentary committee on the policy document on non-believers (*Vrij zijn om niet te geloven*, 'Free Not to Believe', 16 November 2020), this report examines Dutch efforts on behalf of non-believers supported by the Human Rights Fund.

A local organisation in Egypt is using resources from the Human Rights Fund to study religious diversity, including the position of atheists. The Netherlands also contributes to the Protecting Belief Fund, which helps believers and non-believers in acute situations all over the world. Several non-believers faced such situations in 2020 after they openly expressed their atheism.

In almost all cases, the emergency aid took the form of legal or medical assistance and rehousing (temporary or otherwise) to get people to safety. In one case an individual had expressed his secular beliefs on social media. In response to this, his home was broken into and he and his brothers were physically assaulted. The perpetrators were not arrested, but the victim was charged with blasphemy.

With Dutch support, he was taken to a safe location and is receiving legal support in the blasphemy case against him.

Such cases demonstrate the dire situation in some countries. This is due partly to the fact that local authorities do not intervene and there is no social acceptance of other beliefs. Dutch diplomatic missions work to improve the situation of non-believers, both publicly and behind the scenes. The Dutch embassy in Nigeria, along with like-minded countries, drew attention to the situation of Mubarak Bala, president of the Nigerian Humanist Association. Bala was arrested in April 2020 because of a Facebook post. The Netherlands and others ensured that the EU played an active role in this case.

The Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief puts the rights of non-believers on the international agenda. As vice-chair of the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance (IRFBA), the Netherlands consistently highlights the situation of non-believers. At the online ministerial IRFBA meeting to promote freedom of religion and belief in November 2020, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs drew specific attention to the position of non-believers all over the world.

In the parliamentary committee meeting on the policy document on non-believers, the Minister undertook to contact the United Kingdom to explore the possibility of British funding – and possible Dutch-British collaboration – to survey the situation of non-believers worldwide. At the time of writing, the UK was unclear about future funding for freedom of religion and belief. In the UK, too, applications to perform such a study can be submitted via a tendering procedure.

Focus on freedom of religion and belief on 18 June

In accordance with its undertaking to parliament, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will focus on freedom of religion and belief each year on 18 June. This was done online in 2020. The Dutch Human Rights Ambassador issued a joint statement with other European human rights ambassadors focusing on the growing intolerance and discrimination against religious minorities as a result of COVID-19. The Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion and Belief and the Human Rights Ambassador also released a joint statement emphasising the importance of freedom of religion and belief.

More inclusion and tolerance, both within and between religious communities

National legislation that is compliant with international human rights treaties is in itself no guarantee of interreligious tolerance and acceptance of religious minorities or non-believers. Dutch embassies worked in 2020 to strengthen interreligious dialogue in order to

prevent tensions between local communities and counter more conservative movements. The embassy in Indonesia, for example, supported several projects designed to strengthen the dialogue between different faith groups. A local organisation that receives Dutch funding is researching religious conservatism and the increase in hate speech on social media. The results of the study should help civil society and the Indonesian government to devise an appropriate way to curb the rapidly growing conservative movement.

In 2020 the embassy in Malaysia made efforts to promote a more progressive discourse on religious freedom among young people. The Netherlands generated positive attention for this sensitive subject. The main focus was on raising awareness of values like non-discrimination, nonviolence, respect and the promotion of tolerance between different ethnic and religious groups. In collaboration with a number of organisations, activists and academics, the Komuniti Muslim Universal (Universal Muslim Community, K MU) convened eight webinars that brought together speakers from different religious backgrounds. The webinars focused on various subjects related to religious freedom, belief and expression. One of the sessions specifically considered the right not to believe. The webinars reached a total of 2,000 individuals. An educational campaign video also resulted in a partnership with two large universities in Malaysia. A module with a focus on intercultural and interreligious education is being set up for academic purposes with University of Malaya.

In Tbilisi, Georgia, the Netherlands helped promote religious tolerance in state schools. A project run by the Tolerance and Diversity Institute promoted the right to freedom of religion and belief among schoolchildren, with a particular focus on the right to hold atheistic beliefs. The content of 30 books used in secondary schools was adapted in 2020 in collaboration with the Georgian Ministry

of Education, resulting in more inclusive language that is more consistent with international human rights standards.

Strengthening international coalitions

In the year 2020, the Netherlands was able to make an active contribution to building and deepening international coalitions to promote freedom of religion and belief. It joined the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance (IRFBA), an American initiative launched on 5 February 2020 and led in 2020 by the US Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom. The Dutch Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion and Belief held the post of vice-chair. In this capacity, he spoke about the IRFBA, intersectionality with other human rights and the mainstreaming of the IRFBA in the multilateral system at a side event organised by the US at the UN General Assembly High Level Week in September. The Netherlands also called in a [statement](#) issued with other alliance members for freedom of religion and belief to be safeguarded during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020 the Netherlands was also an active member of the International Contact Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief (ICG-ForB), an international partnership of like-minded countries set up to coordinate joint efforts and action in multilateral forums.



Campaign poster - Freedom of Religion or Belief and Expression, Malaysia

In accordance with motion 35 570-V, no. 48, the Netherlands provided extra funding for OHCHR to support activities concerning freedom of religion and belief, a substantial part of which is being used to implement the mandate and follow the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

At EU level, the Netherlands continues to promote freedom of religion and belief in close collaboration with other member states, the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS). This involves sharing information on trends, incidents and cases, and taking coordinated action where possible. Furthermore, in

the first half of 2020 the Netherlands also pressed hard for the appointment of a new European special envoy for freedom of religion and belief. Thanks mainly to support from civil society, on 8 July Vice-President of the European Commission Margaritis Schinas announced the plan to appoint an envoy. The European Commission appointed former Cypriot Commissioner Christos Stylianides to the post in May 2021.

The EU also advocated at the UN for international standards on freedom of religion and belief focused on the individual, not the religion, to be maintained.

Zooming in – Dutch efforts to promote religious tolerance in Kenya

Everyone is free to choose their own religion or belief. The fact that this freedom still cannot be taken for granted everywhere is demonstrated by the religious intolerance that is a feature of daily life in many parts of the world. One example is the Kenyan coastal region of Mombasa, where there are few jobs and poverty is prevalent. Muslims are in the majority there, in contrast to the rest of the country. The young Muslim population generally have a low level of education and distrust the largely Christian police force. This gives rise to tensions which the terrorist group al Shabaab exploits by blaming the Christians for the unemployment and poverty in the Muslim community.

Dialogue to foster trust

To encourage religious tolerance and prevent al Shabaab from recruiting young people in Kenya, the Netherlands uses its Human Rights Fund to support the work of People with a Mission, an organisation that works for peace and reconciliation all over the world. In Kenya the organisation is working with the Kenya Community Support Centre (KECOSCE) and the Inter-Religious Council of Kenya to close the gap between the predominantly Christian police force and the Muslim community. Acting in partnership with local youth, women's and religious leaders, they attempt to create mutual trust between Christians and Muslims, the police and young people, for example by encouraging dialogue between them.

Joining forces against radicalisation

At the same time, Christians and Muslims are bridging their differences by working together on something that is in their common interest: safety. This aspect of their work was raised during the then Minister of Foreign Affairs' visit to People with a Mission in June 2020. In an online meeting with a religious leader, a women's leader and a youth leader in Mombasa, women's leader Shamsa Fadhil emphasised that, irrespective of their religious background, all women face the same problems, including radicalisation.

The Women of Faith Network, consisting of about sixty female religious leaders from various religious bodies, was set up to prevent radicalisation and promote interreligious tolerance. Besides preventing radicalisation, the network is also active on the issue of religion and women's rights, speaking on local radio stations, for example, in order to raise awareness of these matters. With Dutch support, People with a Mission works with these local leaders and partners to create mutual understanding and, in the long term, contribute to human rights, peace and security in places like Mombasa.



Women's, youth and religious leaders and local police officers in dialogue in Kwale, Kenya, to build mutual trust between Christians and Muslims and enhance security.

4. Equal rights for LGBTI people



Highlights

- The Netherlands helped draft the very first statement at the UN Human Rights Council on protection of equal rights for intersex people, which was supported by 36 countries
- The government is working in a long-term strategic partnership with LGBTI organisation COC Netherlands on capacity building for over 125 LGBTI organisations in 16 countries worldwide
- The Netherlands made 16 UPR recommendations on promoting equal rights for LGBTI people

Funds

€ 6,052,388 from the Human Rights Fund
€ 571,989 from other funds

Introduction

Although the COVID-19 pandemic had a severe impact on LGBTI people in 2020, they nevertheless responded with creativity, energy and resilience. Virtual meetings were organised, podcasts and videos were produced and online awareness-raising campaigns were launched to promote equal rights for LGBTI people.

There were also encouraging developments at institutional level. Bhutan and Gabon decriminalised relations between same-sex couples, in Costa Rica a same-sex couple were legally married for the first time, and in Montenegro the parliament voted to legalise registered partnerships between people of the same sex. In Germany and parts of Canada legal restrictions were introduced on the practice of conversion therapy, and the European Commission issued its first LGBTIQ equality strategy in 2020.

However notable they may be, these developments represent only one side of the story. Violence, arrest and even criminal penalties on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, discrimination and social exclusion are a daily reality for LGBTI people all over the world. In this reality, the work of civil society organisations that campaign for LGBTI rights is made impossible, relationships between same-sex partners are criminalised,

and the powers that be frequently and publicly engage in vindictive anti-LGBTI rhetoric.

The Netherlands therefore works all over the world to abolish the criminalisation of acts associated with particular sexual orientations or gender identities, to reduce discrimination and violence against LGBTI people, and to increase social acceptance of LGBTI people everywhere.

Improving the legal position of LGBTI people

In 2020 the Netherlands repeatedly drew attention to the need to improve the legal position of LGBTI people by raising the issue, and by continuing to fight for the use of LGBTI-inclusive language in international forums, from the UN to the EU, and from the CoE to the OSCE.

During the ministerial week of the 75th UN General Assembly, the Netherlands and Argentina organised an event on equal rights for LGBTI people as co-chairs of the UN LGBTI Core Group. Over 300 participants, including High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, spoke online on the overarching theme of ‘intersectionality’, which highlights the conjunction of several grounds for discrimination.

At the two Universal Periodic Review sessions in 2020 the Netherlands made a total of 16 recommendations designed to improve the legal position of LGBTI people, including a number of recommendations about decriminalising consensual relations between members of the same sex in Grenada, Malawi, Jamaica, Guyana and other countries.

At the UN Human Rights Council the Netherlands helped draft the very first joint statement on human rights violations against intersex people. The statement urgently calls upon all countries to protect the autonomy and physical and mental integrity of intersex people.¹ It was supported by 36 countries worldwide.

In the discussion in the UN General Assembly's Third Committee of the only resolution that made explicit reference to sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), the Netherlands used the UN LGBTI Core Group to approach other countries in order to ensure the explicit SOGI reference was retained in the resolution as adopted. The effort to retain LGBTI-inclusive language, launched partly by the Netherlands, was successful. An effort to delete the reference was rejected by a larger margin than in 2018, and the resolution also received more support than in previous years.

The Netherlands continued to support the work of the UN Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity in 2020. The Independent Expert published a report on the impact of COVID-19 on LGBTI people around the world with recommendations to ensure they were given greater consideration in the global COVID-19 response. In the interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert, the Netherlands expressed support for these recommendations through a joint EU statement and a national statement.

The UN Independent Expert presented a report to the UN Human Rights Council on the practice of conversion therapy, and called on countries around the world to ban it. In the interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert concerning the report, the Netherlands underlined the fact that states are responsible for investigating these practices and taking steps against them. The Netherlands then organised an online meeting between the Independent Expert and several Dutch ministries to combine national and international efforts on this issue. In 2021 the government will launch a bill making it a criminal offence to provide conversion therapy to minors and vulnerable adults, or to recruit people for and openly offer such therapy. To generate greater international attention for the problem of conversion therapy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs entered into a partnership with Nikkie de Jager, goodwill ambassador of the Dutch Association for the United Nations. She shared a video message with her global network, based on her personal involvement with LGBTI issues, explaining what the Netherlands does to promote equal rights for LGBTI people. More than two million people viewed the message, developed with the Ministry, which also raised the issue of conversion therapy.

The Netherlands continued to fight for equal rights for LGBTI people in other international forums as well. Two years after the Moscow Mechanism came into effect, and the resulting publication of the report on gross human rights abuses in Chechnya, including persecution of LGBTI people, in late 2020 the Netherlands presented a joint statement at the OSCE highlighting Russia's lack of compliance with the recommendations in the report. In addition to the 16 countries that initiated the statement, another 18 endorsed it, to put pressure on Russia to follow up on the report.

Considerable attention was given to the situation closer to home in 2020, as LGBTI rights are at risk there too. Poland, for example, introduced LGBTI-free zones, and Romania announced its intention to introduce a ban on gender studies. Hungary adopted legislation making it impossible for same-sex couples to adopt children and banning legal recognition of transgender people. These developments in Central Europe, which undermine fundamental EU values, were a cause of great concern to the Dutch government, and therefore prompted a robust response. The Netherlands frequently voiced its concerns in political consultations and bilateral talks with the countries in question. Within the EU, the Netherlands and like-minded countries consistently opposed the attempts of certain member states to weaken or remove references to equal rights for LGBTI people in EU documents. Dutch embassies and the Human Rights Ambassador played a key role in monitoring these developments and tabling them for discussion. One example is the roundtable meeting with LGBTI organisations which the embassy in Budapest organised in response to the introduction of the anti-transgender legislation in Hungary. The Human Rights Ambassador publicly expressed her concerns about the deterioration in the position of transgender people in Hungary, and 50 embassies and missions in Poland, including the Dutch embassy, drafted a joint written message of support for the Polish LGBTI community.

Support for LGBTI organisations worldwide

Promotion of equal rights for LGBTI people all over the world would be impossible without the indefatigable efforts and the expertise of local organisations. To ensure they are properly equipped to address the needs of their local LGBTI communities, the Netherlands has been working for some years now in partnership with Dutch LGBTI organisation COC Netherlands on building the capacity of more than 125 LGBTI organisations in 16 countries around the world. In summer 2020 the then Minister of Foreign Affairs visited COC Netherlands and spoke with a number of LGBTI activists from Asia, Africa and other regions via a video link.

¹ <https://www.permanentrepresentations.nl/documents/speeches/2020/10/1/united-nations-human-rights-council---45th-session>

Various projects run by LGBTI organisations receive support from the Human Rights Fund. One partner organisation has developed workshops designed to positively influence social acceptance of transgender people in Asia and Central America. Another partner organisation facilitated over a hundred small group meetings for LGBTI people to combat loneliness in the community and create a safe environment where they could discuss relationships, mental health and economic empowerment. One partner organisation brought LGBTI people and journalists together in order to combat the largely negative discourse on LGBTI people propagated by key social and religious figures. This involved media training and publication of LGBTI-inclusive articles on religion, gender and sexuality.

The Netherlands continued its involvement in the Global Equality Fund (GEF), a public-private partnership of like-minded countries and actors in the private sector for the protection of LGBTI rights. In 2020 the Netherlands committed to donate €1 million for 2020-2023 to the Dignity for All programme, a mechanism for providing emergency support to LGBTI human rights defenders. The regular autumn meeting of the GEF that was to be organised by the Netherlands could not be held as planned as a result of COVID-19. An online meeting was held instead, at which the Human Rights Ambassador gave the opening speech, which included an undertaking to organise the autumn meeting in 2021.

Embassies also worked to build strong partnerships with LGBTI organisations. They greatly help improve collaboration between the Netherlands and other countries on this issue, as well as helping with the professional and personal growth of LGBTI activists themselves and ensuring close cooperation between LGBTI activists, and between activists and locally active civil society organisations.

One example is the support provided by the embassy in Kazakhstan for a one-year capacity-building programme to help LGBTI people organise themselves, which brought LGBTI activists and several human rights organisations together to strengthen their ties and encourage future collaboration on the LGBTI agenda.

There are numerous examples of projects that aim to combat discrimination against LGBTI people, tackling discrimination in settings ranging from healthcare to the workplace. In Colombia a network of 26 transgender people was set up. They were trained to guide other transgender people in their efforts to gain access to the Colombian healthcare sector, which is very hostile to transgender people and ill-equipped to cater for their care needs. The network succeeded in discussing access to quality healthcare for transgender people with healthcare providers. The organisation in question developed online training videos on the issue, which were viewed more than 33,000 times. In Argentina the *Contratá Trans* project received



Still from the promotional film for the Argentinian initiative *Contratá Trans*, which helps enhance the job prospects of transgender people

support for its efforts to increase the employment prospects of transgender people. The project developed an online course for government workers and businesses on diversity and inclusion in the workplace. The course was taken by 9,000 people. A platform was also set up for transgender jobseekers, which helped a number of transgender people find work.

Embassies also make an important contribution to improved social acceptance of LGBTI people, and help give the local LGBTI community a voice. In Ukraine and Cyprus, for example, they facilitated projects by local artists, which included things like film and photography exhibitions designed to open up debate on the issue. The embassy in Ukraine facilitated artists seeking to discuss the stigmatisation of LGBTI people in traditional societies. A film developed as part of the project won a prize for best short film of the year at the Odessa International Film Festival. In Jordan, support was provided for the development of a podcast series which discussed subjects regarded as sensitive in the region, such as sexual orientation. *The Economist* selected it as the best podcast from the MENA region. The embassy in Lebanon made possible the launch of the very first online platform on gender and sexuality in Arabic.² The platform offers young LGBTI people in Lebanon a safe online environment where they can find information on sexual orientation and gender identity in their own language. In Brazil a project was launched in schools designed to promote values like

diversity among teenagers, and combat stereotyping and prejudice about marginalised groups, including LGBTI people. Modules for teachers to help them combat anti-LGBTI sentiments in schools were developed in Georgia.

Embassies are an important source of support on the ground for LGBTI people, and can help provide psychosocial, physical, public and political support. During the pandemic, this work is more important than ever. Several embassies launched projects to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the LGBTI community. As a result of the pandemic many LGBTI people in Rwanda lost their job, largely in the informal sector, and persistent discrimination in the workplace makes it difficult for them to find other work. The embassy in Rwanda supported activities by the local LGBTI network to address anti-LGBTI discrimination in the workplace, and thus enhance LGBTI people's opportunities on the Rwandan labour market. In other parts of the world, Dutch embassies supported projects launched in response to the COVID-19 crisis, providing online psychosocial support and legal services for LGBTI people so they had somewhere to turn for emotional support or legal advice.



Screenshot of the online platform on gender and sexuality in Lebanon: www.shabaketelmeem.com

² <https://www.shabaketelmeem.com/>.

Pride and IDAHOT during the COVID-19 pandemic

By organising or participating in Pride activities all over the world the Netherlands publicly demonstrates its support for everyone's right to be themselves, as well as the right to demonstrate and the right to freedom of expression. Taking part in these activities helps make the local LGBTI community more visible and enhances its legitimacy and recognition, as well as helping the activities to take place safely. In the run-up to IDAHOT, the Human Rights Ambassador launched a social media campaign on equal rights for LGBTI people.

Embassies in a large number of countries, including South Korea, Slovenia, North Macedonia, Canada, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Japan, Finland, Serbia and Kosovo, facilitated, joined or helped organise COVID-proof Pride activities and parades. They took many forms last year, including car parades, online parades and a few physical parades, albeit socially distanced and with limited numbers.

Around the time of Pride and IDAHOT, Dutch embassies worldwide focused attention on LGBTI rights in virtual seminars, film and video screenings, exhibitions, debates and public statements of support. In the Philippines the Dutch embassy developed a seven-part webinar series called 'Pride against the Pandemic' about gender equality, which was viewed by around a thousand people. The embassy in Moldova launched a social media campaign designed to counter stereotypes of LGBTI people. The Dutch embassies in Turkey and Zimbabwe organised a joint webinar with COC Netherlands on life in LGBTI-intolerant societies, at which best practices were shared and joint projects and campaign and awareness-raising strategies to enhance social acceptance of LGBTI people were discussed.

Strengthening international coalitions

The Netherlands strives for long-term cooperation with like-minded countries to enhance respect for LGBTI rights. The Netherlands continued its active role in the Equal Rights Coalition (ERC) in 2020, as co-chair of the International Diplomacy group and as a member of the Executive Committee. In the former capacity, the Netherlands helped draft and coordinate a joint statement by 37 ERC members calling upon countries to consider LGBTI people in their response to the COVID-19 crisis. As a member of the ERC Executive Committee the Netherlands helped draw up a new

strategic multi-year plan designed to bring more focus to the organisation's work. In bilateral discussions, where expedient, the Netherlands tried to encourage countries to move towards ERC membership. In a human rights dialogue with South Africa, the Human Rights Ambassador expressed the Netherlands' desire to welcome South Africa to the coalition. In the UN LGBTI Core Group, the Netherlands remained active as co-chair along with Argentina, organising several online events, including on IDAHOT. Thanks in part to Dutch efforts, Iceland, Nepal, Malta and North Macedonia have now joined the Core Group.

5. Human rights defenders and strengthening civil society



Highlights

- Human Rights Tulip awarded to Lilit Martirosyan, the first registered transgender woman and transgender activist in Armenia
- Ten Shelter City participants from eight different countries received in the Netherlands, despite COVID-19 travel restrictions
- Targeted diplomatic efforts on behalf of human rights defenders at risk in Egypt, Belarus, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, China, Russia and other countries

Funds

€ 5,856,863 from the Human Rights Fund
€ 11,565,076 from other funds

Introduction

The work of human rights defenders and civil society is vital for the protection of human rights. Support for human rights defenders and civil society is therefore a priority of the government's human rights policy.

The year 2020 was a difficult one for human rights defenders and civil society. Governments in many countries used the COVID-19 pandemic as a pretext to introduce repressive measures that had a negative impact on civil society. An increase in censorship, the banning or violent dispersal of peaceful protests, blocking of social media and other measures reduced the space for civil society.³ The physical safety of many human rights defenders declined, while the international community's attention was focused mainly on tackling the pandemic.

Unfortunately, more human rights defenders were murdered because of their work in 2020 than in 2019. According to human rights defenders' organisation Frontline Defenders, 331 human rights defenders died in 2020 at the hands of state or non-state actors.⁴

Dutch policy in support of human rights defenders and civil society focuses on enhancing the safety and legitimacy of these individuals and organisations, with particular attention for female human rights defenders and the most vulnerable groups of human rights defenders. The Netherlands also works on capacity building for civil society organisations with programmes like Dialogue and Dissent (2016-2020) and its successor Strengthening Civil Society (2021-2025), enabling them to make use of the shrinking civic space remaining to them and to influence standards and decision-making by calling upon government and economic institutions to comply with international human rights treaties and implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Safety and legitimacy of human rights defenders

Many human rights defenders around the world need help because they face acute danger. The Netherlands also campaigns to enhance the legitimacy of their work at various levels, helping to make their working environment safer.

For many years, the Netherlands has donated to and sat on the Donor Steering Committee of the Lifeline Embattled CSO Assistance Fund, which provides emergency support for human rights defenders and civil society organisations in the form of security measures, network-building and creative communication and lobbying strategies to counter smear campaigns. The EU's ProtectDefenders.eu mechanism

³ <https://findings2020.monitor.civicus.org/downward-spiral.html>.

⁴ https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/sites/default/files/flid_global_analysis_2020.pdf.

provides emergency support for things such as medical costs, temporary relocation or legal counsel to human rights defenders the world over. In 2020 6,494 human rights defenders in 122 countries received help via this mechanism. The Netherlands also supports the Digital Defenders Partnership, which helps human rights defenders who have become the victim of online hacks, digital surveillance or data theft. Both the ProtectDefenders.eu mechanism and the Digital Defenders Partnership also support human rights defenders by providing training and guidance to help them continue their work in restrictive circumstances.

In addition, the Netherlands supports projects that take a holistic approach to supporting human rights defenders, with concern for their physical safety, digital security, organisational safety, mental wellbeing and other personal circumstances. One example is the Shelter City project run by Justice & Peace, which is co-funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Despite the COVID-19 restrictions on incoming travel, 10 human rights defenders were able to come to the Netherlands as part of the Shelter City programme in 2020. During their stay, participants are offered various training courses to enable them to continue their work more safely and effectively in their country of origin. The Netherlands supports similar Shelter City initiatives in Costa Rica, Tanzania, Benin and Georgia. The year 2020 also saw the launch of a three-year Dutch-funded Frontline Defenders project focusing on capacity building for human rights defenders at risk.

The Dutch embassies strive to ensure the safety of human rights defenders by funding projects, providing diplomatic support and attending trials. Moreover, the Netherlands calls in various multilateral forums for better legal protection for human rights defenders.

Projects supported by the Netherlands

The Dutch embassy in Colombia arranged self-protection strategy training for 440 members of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, enabling them to more effectively protect their lands from armed groups involved in illegal mining and drug trafficking, and to reduce the risk to their personal safety.

Another example is the support which the Dutch embassy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo provided for two international NGOs and their local partners in helping almost 300 human rights defenders and civil society actors who had been imprisoned or faced serious threats.⁵

Several Dutch embassies organised film screenings on and around Human Rights Day on 10 December, in collaboration with Movies that Matter. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, in many countries the films were shown online. Some 2,500 people watched the films, which explored various human rights issues.

Diplomatic support for human rights defenders

In February 2020 the Dutch ambassador in Egypt and 11 ambassadors from other countries visited the Egyptian human rights organisation Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI) to demonstrate their support for the organisation's work. In November 2020 13 ambassadors, including the Dutch ambassador, paid a similar visit to show solidarity with the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR). Although the visit was intended to offer protection, two weeks later three EIPR staff members were arrested and interrogated about it. Immediately after their arrest, the Netherlands and like-minded countries took joint action. After behind-the-scenes diplomatic pressure and a global publicity campaign, the three were released.

The Dutch chargé d'affaires in Belarus and other European diplomats paid a visit to demonstrate solidarity with Nobel Prize winner Svetlana Alexievich. As a prominent member of the Coordination Council (the opposition coalition) she was at great risk of being arrested.

Where possible, the Netherlands openly expresses support for human rights defenders. In February and August 2020, for example, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs spoke to his Saudi counterpart about women's rights activist Loujain al-Hathloul and the situation of other human rights defenders. The fact that Al-Hathloul was released on parole in February 2021 is a positive step, though the Netherlands' broader concerns remain.

The Netherlands is one of the few European countries that make public statements on the human rights situation in Cuba. A tweet from the Human Rights Ambassador on the situation there and on the issue of arbitrary detention was well received by demonstrators from the San Isidro Movement, which saw it as a sign of support for their protests. The Ambassador also posted messages on social media twice in 2020 about the imprisonment of Cuban journalist Roberto Quiñones, who has now completed his one-year prison sentence. The Ambassador also shared the Netherlands' views on the situation of Chinese human rights lawyers Wang Quanzhang and Yu Wensheng, Saudi

⁵ Confidential project.

women's rights activist Loujain al-Hathloul, Russian human rights lawyer Vanessa Kogan, Iranian human rights defender Narges Mohammadi, Bahey eldin Hassan of Egypt and others.

Dutch efforts in multilateral forums

In various multilateral forums, too, the Netherlands calls upon states to comply with their international obligations towards human rights defenders. For instance, in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly it drew attention to indigenous female environmental and human rights defenders in the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor.

At the Human Rights Council session in September 2020 the Netherlands joined with Belgium and Luxembourg in drawing attention to reprisals against human rights defenders, including three Egyptians, Mohamed el-Baqer, Ramy Kamel and Ibrahim Metwally Hegazy. The Netherlands and the EU also drew attention to online threats against vulnerable groups of human rights defenders in an interactive dialogue with the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ilze Brands Kehris. In addition, the Netherlands endorsed the joint statement by over thirty countries drawing attention to the situation of human rights defenders in Saudi Arabia, specifically the issue of arbitrary detention.

Embassy attendance at trials

Another method that the Netherlands uses to improve the safety and legitimacy of human rights defenders is to send staff from its embassies, consulates and honorary consulates to attend court proceedings. A representative of the Netherlands was for example present at the court hearing in the case of Egyptian human rights lawyer Mohamed el-Baqer. In Tanzania a staff member from the Dutch embassy attended the trial of investigative journalist

Erick Kabendera, who had been charged with tax evasion and involvement with organised crime, among other things. He was released in February 2020 following diplomatic pressure, having received legal assistance from several human rights organisations, including Free Press Unlimited, and after reaching a settlement with the prosecutor. Staff of the embassy in Zimbabwe attended several trials of human rights defenders and helped them gain access to legal assistance. In Uganda the embassy attended the trial of human rights defender Nicholas Opiyo, an outspoken critic of the government who has been accused of money laundering. In Saudi Arabia embassy staff were present in the court building, though not in the courtroom, during all the hearings in the case of Loujain al-Hathloul, both at the criminal court and at the high-security Specialised Criminal Court (where terrorism cases are heard). An embassy staff member in Bratislava attended a hearing in a case brought by a group of Roma against the Slovak state. The presence of an embassy representative helped publicise the case and underline the importance of combating police prejudice against the vulnerable and marginalised Roma minority in Slovakia.

Many court cases were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while some hearings had limits on the number who could attend, or took place online. The Dutch missions around the world adapted where possible to the changing circumstances. Sometimes, they were unable to attend a trial as a result of the restrictions. In November 2020 a staff member from the mission and representatives of several other European countries wanted to attend a hearing at the Israeli Supreme Court on the imminent demolition and evacuation of the Bedouin village of Khan al-Ahmar. They were denied access on the grounds that the number of people allowed in the courtroom was limited due to COVID-19.

Human Rights Tulip for Lilit Martirosyan

'All of us here are different, but have something quite radical in common: we all want acceptance and we all want peace.' – Lilit Martirosyan

On 10 December 2020 the then Minister of Foreign Affairs presented the Human Rights Tulip to Armenian human rights defender Lilit Martirosyan, the first registered transgender woman in Armenia. As the founder and current chair of the NGO Right Side Human Rights Defender, she fearlessly campaigns for equal rights for all, irrespective of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. The €100,000 prize money will allow Lilit to establish a centre where transgender people can be given shelter and training.



Lilit Martirosyan after receiving the Human Rights Tulip

A number of embassies awarded a local Human Rights Tulip in 2020 to human rights defenders. The prize enhances the visibility and legitimacy of the activists' work. Six Human Rights Tulips were awarded by Dutch embassies

in 2020: in Georgia (Kamilla Mamedova), Ukraine (Tetyana Pechonchyk and Marta Chumalo), Rwanda (Divine Ingabire), El Salvador (Abigail Cortez), Iraq (Saqr al-Zakaria) and Myanmar (Saw Eh Say).



The Dutch ambassador to Rwanda presenting the first local Human Rights Tulip to Divine Ingabire for her efforts to highlight and combat period poverty. At the age of 23 she set up I Matter to campaign for free period products and combat the shame associated with menstruation.

Strengthening civil society organisations

In many cases civil society organisations highlight injustice and concerns about protection of human rights and power imbalances, and hold political and economic institutions to account. Strengthening civil society helps to create more open societies, and uphold democracy and the rule of law.

The Netherlands supports numerous civil society organisations that take a human rights approach to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through programmes like Dialogue and Dissent and through the Accountability Fund, which is used to help organisations encourage authorities and businesses to live up to their responsibilities for human rights and the SDGs. One essential element of these efforts is the consolidation of the social contract between citizens and government. Building capacity to enable local civil society organisations to fulfil their independent role is one of these programmes' key goals.

In Saudi Arabia the embassy organised a meeting with the resident UN coordinator and three civil society organisations that work towards the SDGs. The event also marked the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the SDGs. The three organisations have grown over the past few years and have now been officially recognised by the government.

Dutch embassies provide various forms of support for local civil society organisations. A number of examples are listed below.

The embassy in Jordan took the lead on the founding of the Civil Society Donors Group, which discusses with the Jordanian authorities matters relevant to civil society, such as the new legislation on foreign funding of local civil society organisations. Thanks to the efforts of this group representing the interests of civil society, the legislation is still in the process of being finalised.

In Malaysia the Dutch embassy and the international organisation Civicus joined with local civil society organisations to arrange dialogues between diplomats and human rights defenders. They discussed developments and experiences, as well as ways of improving cooperation in the future in order to ensure that these organisations and human rights defenders can do their job safely and effectively.

The embassy in South Korea organised a meeting to discuss the increasingly restrictive policies of the South Korean government towards civil society organisations that focus on the human rights situation in North Korea.

In Kazakhstan a number of independent human rights organisations were issued large fines and forced to terminate their activities for alleged minor violations of the rules concerning notification of foreign subsidies. The Dutch embassy raised the issue with the EU. Thanks in part to these efforts, all fines and other measures were withdrawn.

6. Equal rights for women and girls

Highlights



- Eighty-two like-minded countries supported a statement on gender equality, women's rights and SRHR at the UN General Assembly high-level event marking the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
- Publication of the Fourth Dutch National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2021-2025)
- Robust wording on protecting women and girls from violence in the biennial Franco-Dutch UN General Assembly resolution on violence against women and girls and their access to justice

Funds

€7,813,139 from the Human Rights Fund
€1,302,824 from other funds

Introduction

In 2020 the Netherlands' efforts to defend and promote gender equality and equal rights for women and girls were undiminished. These efforts focused in particular on SRHR, strengthening female leadership, political participation, tackling violence against women and girls, protecting them in conflict situations, and enhancing the role of women in conflict prevention and peace processes.

There was a further increase in 2020 in the regressive pressure on UN and EU agreements concerning women's rights, gender equality and SRHR. COVID-19 meant that most multilateral negotiations took place online, which sometimes prevented voting. On these issues, in particular, it proved easier for countries to prevent or break any consensus. Thanks to coordinated efforts against the pushback undertaken with like-minded countries in the EU and UN, good results were achieved in the fight to preserve international agreements. The EU consensus and existing UN agreements on SRHR and gender equality thus survived.

The role of women in conflict prevention and peace processes

The Netherlands used its Women, Peace and Security Fund to financially support eight Dutch consortiums working on

the issue of women, peace and security with local organisations in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The goals of such partnerships include effective implementation of UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in these countries.

The focus of these programmes in 2020 was on consolidating results already achieved and identifying best practice and lessons learned. The National Action Plan (NAP) programme in South Sudan, for example, helps make traditional courts more aware of gender and of the impact of gender-related violence, thus enabling them to give more effective consideration to victims. In Colombia partners in the NAP programme, working with other women's organisations, were able to influence the Truth Commission, thus ensuring that this component of the national reconciliation process reflects gender dimensions.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands campaigned on the issue of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in multilateral forums. The Netherlands lobbied for full and meaningful participation by women and girls in conflict prevention and peace processes and more participation in peace missions by women in uniform, and highlighted the importance of gender mainstreaming. It used its influence in support of women taking part in missions, committing more financial support to the research by the Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) into barriers to women's participation in peace missions, and to Canada's Elsie Initiative.

At the Human Rights Council the Netherlands supported the resolution on ‘Promoting and Protecting the Human Rights of Women and Girls in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations on the Occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)’, which after concessions was adopted by consensus in October 2020, despite great pressure on the Core Group. The Netherlands co-sponsored the resolution.

During the annual Open Debates on WPS and sexual violence in conflict, and the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Resolution 1325 at the UN Security Council, the Kingdom of the Netherlands drew attention in written statements to issues including the fourth Dutch NAP, prevention of sexual violence in conflict, and the sexual and reproductive health and rights of survivors of sexual violence.⁶ To mark the 20th anniversary of Resolution 1325 the Netherlands organised an online event on the implementation of the entire WPS agenda in collaboration with civil society organisations, experts and researchers.

As one of the four biggest donors to the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) in 2019, the Netherlands became a Donor Funding Board Member in 2020. In this capacity, the Netherlands made technical contributions to launching new initiatives, including the Rapid Response Window on women’s participation in peace processes.⁷

One example of the Netherlands’ bilateral efforts is its support for a programme run by the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the Yemeni Peace Track Initiative (PTI) aimed at strengthening women’s participation in the Yemeni peace process. By supporting local organisations, mediators and peace activists, and taking other measures, WILPF and PTI helped ensure more Yemeni women were involved in local peacebuilding efforts, despite the absence of a high-level peace process. Recommendations made by these women are also reflected in several official documents, such as the Riyadh Agreement and Yemen’s first NAP on 1325.

The fourth Dutch National Action Plan on Resolution 1325

The fourth Dutch National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 (NAP1325-IV) was developed and published in 2020. It was the result of constructive collaboration between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Education, Culture & Science and Justice & Security, the police and over 60 civil society organisations represented by WO=MEN, the Dutch gender platform. The development of the new NAP involved 15 civic consultation sessions with participants from government, national and international civil society organisations, external experts and women from the diaspora.

The Netherlands is unique in that civil society here is involved in the development, implementation and coordination of NAPs for women, peace and security (WPS). Government and civil society join forces to campaign for a world where equal and meaningful participation by women and girls in decision-making processes on peace and security is the norm, sustainable peace and development opportunities are achievable for all, and conflict-related violence against women, men, girls and boys has stopped. NAP1325-IV will come into effect in January 2021 for a period of five years.

NAP 1325-IV has a greater focus on monitoring, evaluation and joint accountability, with a detailed monitoring framework based on internationally agreed WPS and gender indicators. A fifth strategic goal has been added to integrate and specifically refer to WPS mainstreaming in organisation, analysis, policy, implementation and evaluation in the field of peace and security.

Eliminating violence against women and girls

The biennial Franco-Dutch UN General Assembly resolution on the elimination of violence against women was again adopted in 2020. The resolution includes strong wording on protecting women and girls from violence, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensuring they have access to justice. Russia broke the traditional consensus on the resolution, however, after which it was adopted by an

overwhelming majority, with 170 votes in favour, 0 against and 11 abstentions. The Netherlands has also joined the new Group of Friends on Violence against Women, in which over 80 countries act together to draw attention to the matter at UN level.

In Juba, South Sudan a court focusing on violence against women opened in late 2020, with Dutch financial support.

⁶ <https://www.permanentrepresentations.nl/documents/speeches/2020/07/17/unsc-high-level-open-debate-on-conflict-related-sexual-violence>.

⁷ <https://wphfund.org/rww/>.

The court is a good example of how the Netherlands works to uphold the rights of women and girls in risk areas. It provides access to justice and remedies for victims of gender-related violence. The court combines three priorities of Dutch policy on human rights, development cooperation and foreign trade: access to justice, equal rights for women and girls, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Over 300 cases are already pending with the court, which enjoys considerable support from the South Sudanese authorities, public and media. The authorities have announced their intention to set up more mobile courts throughout the country.

The Dutch embassy in Harare highlighted the widespread abuse of women during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. One in three women in Zimbabwe

experience sexual or gender-related violence. The efforts of 16 women, men and institutions to protect the rights of women and girls in Zimbabwe were honoured in collaboration with local organisations. 'Gender champions' were selected from among 200 candidates from all over the country. For 16 days the embassy showcased the inspiring work of these pioneers of women's rights on its social media accounts. It also awarded a grant of \$5,000 to each of the champions to enable them to expand their important work. The money will allow them to step up their fight against gender-related violence, prevent child marriage and enhance women's autonomy in collaboration with local communities. Acknowledgement as gender champions helped these pioneers have greater impact in their communities.



On International Women's Day the embassy in Sri Lanka hosted SPEAKUP! Talks, which focused on the power of storytelling. This provided a safe environment where participants were able to share their experiences and learn about breaking taboos.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

In multilateral forums, efforts to advance equal rights for women and girls succeeded despite the opposition united behind the anti-abortion Geneva Consensus Declaration. The US, which was still campaigning strongly against abortion rights in 2020 under the Republican administration, led the opposition. In the UN General Assembly's Third Committee, the Kingdom of the Netherlands managed to mobilise like-minded countries at strategic points in the debate on the resolution.

Statements from like-minded countries on gender and SRHR thus received growing support in 2020.

At the UN General Assembly high-level event marking the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a record number of countries (82), including the Netherlands, endorsed the importance of the Beijing Declaration in a statement of the like-minded.⁸ Most of these countries had previously endorsed such a statement, but a number of them (Côte d'Ivoire, Kazakhstan,

⁸ <https://www.government.nl/documents/diplomatic-statements/2020/10/01/joint-statement-reaffirming-the-importance-of-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-srhr>.

Kyrgyzstan, Jordan, Mongolia, Morocco, Tajikistan, Thailand and Turkmenistan) did so for the first time. These last two countries joined the group after outreach by the Netherlands. At the same event, the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation and Nikkie de Jager, a Dutch transgender woman and goodwill ambassador of the Dutch Association for the United Nations, issued a strong video message on women's rights, gender equality and support for an inclusive global women's movement.

Dutch efforts also proved crucial in the General Assembly resolution on a Comprehensive and Coordinated Response to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic. Despite strong pushback, the resolution included sections on gender equality and SRHR. In 2020 the Netherlands initiated demarches at country level, often jointly with like-minded states, calling on governments to defend existing agreements on SRHR, and expressing concern about anti-SRHR initiatives (such as the Geneva Consensus Declaration).

At the Human Rights Council, too, the Netherlands' leadership role was essential in maintaining the right of women and girls to self-determination and freedom of choice concerning their own bodies. The Netherlands acted with like-minded countries to mobilise broader support, particularly from countries that had not yet actively expressed an opinion on these issues. The Netherlands also worked closely with youth, women's and SRHR organisations to achieve the desired progress and defend existing wording.

Dutch efforts to defend UN agencies' mandates on SRHR were effective as well. The Netherlands made it very clear that any weakening of UNICEF's standard-setting mandate would be unacceptable. To restore confidence the Netherlands explicitly asked UNICEF's executive director to reaffirm this mandate. In 2020 the executive director made several positive statements on SRHR at board meetings, despite conservative pressure to restrict the organisation's work. The Netherlands also joined with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to successfully resist Indonesia's attempts to exclude SRHR and gender equality from UNFPA country programming.

At the EU, a reference to SRHR was included in the Council position on the EU's binding external financing instrument for 2021-2027 (Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)). Despite regressive pressure during the negotiations from a number of member states, thanks in part to Dutch efforts, the text stated that the available NDICI funding would be used in line with the EU's position on SRHR. The Council position also states that the instrument will 'promote

gender equality, women's and girls' rights and empowerment and non-discrimination on any grounds'.

The ambitious new European Gender Action Plan (GAP III) was presented in the autumn. This policy framework is designed to incorporate gender equality and access to equal rights for women and girls into the EU's broader foreign policy. The Netherlands and a large number of like-minded countries insisted that references to gender equality, the Istanbul Convention and SRHR be retained, so no Council conclusions could be agreed. The German Presidency therefore issued strongly-worded Presidency conclusions, which were supported by 24 EU member states (excluding Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria) including the Netherlands. The Presidency conclusions reiterate that gender equality and access to equal rights for women and girls are the core of European values. The lack of consensus will not prevent implementation of GAP III.



The Dutch ambassador in Benin marching with a group of young SRHR activists on International Women's Day. Photo: Association Béninoise pour la Promotion de la Famille.

Women's participation in decision-making processes

In Bangladesh the Netherlands supported journalism training for young women from rural areas. The project on amplifying the voices of rural women and young journalists trained 11 young female journalists and four young men from 11 rural districts. Due to COVID-19 the project continued with individual online training. The trainees learned to use mobile recording equipment to record multimedia stories and produce despatches. This resulted in the production of 342 multimedia reports in 2020, 16 of which were published by *Deutsche Welle* on its *Banglar Mukh* news site. The large number of reports gave rural people a voice, and encouraged marginalised groups and communities to share their stories. The reports made by and for these groups were also broadcast on regular media in Bangladesh and further afield.

As part of the Legal Action Worldwide programme the Netherlands organised a webinar on the rights of migrant

domestic workers (MDW). It took place to mark the first criminal case on behalf of an MDW in Lebanon, which was brought by Legal Action Worldwide. The case involves accusations of gender-related crimes. Previously, cases had only been dealt with via the regular MDW complaints mechanism. The goal of the court case was to get the rights of migrant domestic workers on the agenda as a women's rights issue and a migration and labour rights issue. Some 95% of domestic workers in Lebanon are women. These efforts marked the first time that Lebanese women's rights organisations had focused on the rights of female domestic workers.

In Saudi Arabia the Netherlands financed the Saudi Women's Stories (SWS) project, which helps women give an account of their situation by means of storytelling and workshops. Women and young people are offered an independent media and storytelling platform where they can share their stories and highlight and discuss both worrying and neutral matters on a daily basis.

7. Tackling impunity for the most serious crimes



Highlights

- The Netherlands held Syria accountable for gross human rights abuses, particularly torture
- The Netherlands was a major driving force behind the International Criminal Court review in which independent experts made recommendations as to how the court could function better
- The capacity of OHCHR to support UN investigative mandates was significantly expanded, thanks to Dutch support

Funds

€3,081,880 from the Human Rights Fund
€7,145,577 from other funds

Introduction

Lasting peace must be based on justice. Organisations that work for the prosecution of people accused of the most severe crimes – war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide – directly support the international legal order. The Netherlands therefore campaigns against impunity and in support of independent and effective international courts and tribunals.

States are primarily responsible for prosecuting international crimes.⁹ Where countries are unwilling or unable to prosecute such cases, the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague has jurisdiction. The ICC is unable to act in relation to some countries, however, because they are not party to the Rome Statute or because the Security Council fails to refer the situation to the Court. In such cases, the Netherlands focuses on more creative solutions, such as gathering evidence to prepare for future prosecutions, or independent investigations under UN mandates for fact-finding missions or commissions of inquiry to establish the severity of the situation.

The Netherlands' efforts against impunity are intended to help achieve justice and redress for victims. They therefore also focus on inclusive involvement and a voice for victims at all stages of the accountability process: documentation, evidence gathering, prosecution, sentencing and redress.

Documentation and evidence gathering

Over the past few years, the Netherlands has on several occasions joined with like-minded countries to find creative solutions in the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes when prosecution was not, or not yet, possible. The number of UN mandates helping in the fight against impunity has increased in recent years. In light of these policy developments, in November 2020 the Netherlands organised a conference in collaboration with the International Commission of Jurists. The conference produced ideas and recommendations for further policy development, such as working to enhance cooperation between civil society organisations, evidence databases and the International Criminal Court, bringing together experts in humanitarian law, human rights and international criminal law, and enhancing OHCHR's capacity to provide robust support for the implementation of UN investigative mandates.

The Netherlands has been providing financial support for the enhancement of investigative capacity at OHCHR since 2019. By the end of 2020 OHCHR had used some €1.6 million in Dutch support to strengthen its accountability unit. Thanks to this support, OHCHR was able to contribute to the high quality and consistent approach of efforts such as the fact-finding mission in Venezuela, the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria. It offers support for, for example, information management, witness protection and engaging the services of appropriate experts. These are vital for thorough documentation of human rights abuses as a first step towards accountability. OHCHR also helped launch a fact-finding mission in Libya, the mandate for which was

⁹ International crimes, or the 'most serious crimes', are genocide, war crimes, torture and crimes against humanity.

adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in June 2020, with Dutch support. In accordance with the motion by MP Martijn van Helvert et al. (Parliamentary Papers 35 570-V no. 30) on stepping up the fight against impunity and strengthening UN investigative and evidence-gathering mechanisms, the Netherlands will continue this support in 2021 with a donation of €2 million. This will allow OHCHR to make further improvements and offer specific policy advice to teams implementing new and existing UN mandates, so that the recommendations of such expert teams can be implemented more effectively.

The Netherlands is working with a number of civil society organisations in the fight against impunity. Such organisations play a vital role because they are often the first to arrive on the ground to start documenting what has happened. They also play a crucial role in encouraging prosecution at national level.

Dutch support for Justice Rapid Response (JRR) contributes to national, regional and international accountability processes. JRR seconds experts with specific knowledge, often pertaining to sexual and gender-related violence, to support evidence databases for Syria and Myanmar, for example, as well as to support civil society organisations helping with documentation and evidence gathering.

In Yemen the Netherlands supports Mwatana for Human Rights, a local organisation that helps with documentation and legal support for victims. The work of Mwatana complements that of the UN's Group of Eminent Experts (GoEE), mandated by the Human Rights Council since 2017. In accordance with the motion by MP Lilianne Ploumen

(Parliamentary Papers 32 735, no. 297), in 2020 the Netherlands again took the lead in the adoption of a resolution on the GoEE, whose mandate was renewed and extended to include a provision on the gathering and storage of information pertaining to abuses, thus increasing pressure on all parties to address impunity.

The local OHCHR office in Seoul organised a workshop for various Korean civil society organisations, with Dutch support, to generate ideas to step up the fight against impunity in North Korea. In Libya, too, the Netherlands brought together a range of parties to table for debate the lack of accountability, as co-chair of the International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (IHL/HR) Working Group of the International Follow-up Committee for Libya (IFCL). The working group focuses, among other things, on transitional justice, the documentation of human rights violations and tracing and identifying missing persons. The International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) has been commissioned by the Netherlands to explore what steps and knowledge are needed to enable the Libyan authorities to effectively tackle this problem. In 2020 the Netherlands also supported the ICMP's project in Iraq, which supports millions of Iraqis who lost relatives during conflicts in their search for answers. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo the Netherlands supported TRIAL International, an organisation that has helped strengthen the national rule of law and witness protection, so that perpetrators of the most serious human rights violations can be prosecuted. They include Ntabo Ntaberi, who had been on the UN sanctions list since 2011 and was sentenced to life imprisonment last year.



TRIAL helped train magistrates and lawyers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In 2020, as in previous years, the Netherlands Forensic Institute provided expertise, on request, in support of forensic investigations all over the world. These included requests from the International Criminal Court and other courts requiring forensic evidence, as well as specialist organisations like the evidence database for Syria.

Courts and tribunals

The Netherlands helps through various channels to maintain the independence and effective operation of international courts, tribunals and residual mechanisms overseeing compliance with legal obligations imposed by courts that have now closed. This is also the focus of host country policy on the courts and tribunals based in the Netherlands.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is a key organisation in the fight against impunity, and it embodies the idea that prosecuting the most serious crimes is a shared responsibility of the entire international community. It is essential for the ICC to be able to carry out its mandate safely, independently and properly in order to combat impunity. As host and State Party, the Netherlands therefore strives to guarantee the ICC's independence.

On 2 September 2020 the United States placed ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda and a head of department at the Prosecutor's office on a sanctions list, following a threat to

use all means possible if the Court were to decide to further investigate possible international crimes in Afghanistan. To protect the proper functioning of the ICC, the Netherlands spoke out firmly against this step. On several occasions the government informed the US that it considered the sanctions alarming and regrettable. President Joe Biden withdrew the sanctions on 2 April 2021, in a welcome boost to the position and independence of the ICC.

The Netherlands was a driving force behind the launch of an Independent Expert Review of the functioning of the International Criminal Court. Three panels of experts examined the governance of the ICC: the organisation and course of the administration of justice and the organisation and work of the Prosecutor. This resulted in a report with 384 recommendations for improving the ICC's functioning, concerning matters such as relations between the Prosecutor's office, judges and registry; human resources and organisation; the efficiency of legal proceedings and the work of the Prosecutor; the position of victims in procedures; the role of oversight mechanisms; and the internal working environment, including bullying and sexual harassment.

At the session of the Assembly of States Parties in December 2020, a mechanism was established to follow up the recommendations. It will consist of two people

representing the States Parties assisted by three people from the other regional groups, who will act as a focus group. They will be responsible for planning, coordinating, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the independent experts' recommendations, in close collaboration with the Court itself. The Netherlands will be part of the review mechanism, and will take responsibility for coordination in The Hague.

The Africa Legal Aid (AFLA) pilot project supported by the Netherlands to provide gender-sensitivity training for judges at the International Criminal Court, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, the International Court of Justice and other tribunals started work in 2020.

In September 2020 the Netherlands and Canada announced their intention to intervene in the case brought by Gambia against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice for possible violation of the Genocide Convention. The Netherlands will focus specifically on sexual and gender-related violence. The announcement followed a 2019 commitment that the Netherlands and Canada would support Gambia in this case where possible.

In August 2020 the Special Tribunal for Lebanon issued its long-awaited judgment in its main case concerning

the 2005 attack on former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. The Netherlands has provided financial support to help the Tribunal, which is based in Leidschendam, fulfil its UN mandate since it was established in 2009.

Focus on victims

Justice for victims is the Netherlands' focus in the fight against impunity. It is vital to involve victims and affected communities in new initiatives and current trials. For this reason, the Netherlands and Switzerland organised meetings between the Syria evidence database (the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM)) and Syrian civil society organisations that document violations against victims. A meeting was held for the first time in the Netherlands in 2020, focusing on the issue of unlawful attack.

When collaborating and sharing evidence, it is also crucial that due consideration be given to victims and their wellbeing. The Netherlands therefore supports the UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD), the evidence-gathering mechanism for Iraq and specifically ISIS, in providing victim support and witness protection. This has for example enabled UNITAD to employ a number of psychologists to facilitate aftercare for victims and assist in interviews.

Holding Syria accountable

'Justice is not optional. It's a requirement. A must.' – Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs during the UN General Assembly ministerial week

On 18 September 2020 the Netherlands held Syria liable under international law for gross human rights violations, specifically torture. In a diplomatic note the Netherlands called Syria's attention to its international obligations to put an end to the violations and make full reparation to the victims. The Netherlands also requested that Syria enter into negotiations, a necessary first step in resolving the dispute. If the two countries fail to resolve the matter, the Netherlands may propose proceeding to arbitration.

If no agreement is reached on that step, the Netherlands will bring the case before an international court, under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984), which was ratified by Syria in 2004. Holding Syria accountable is in line with Dutch efforts to curb impunity, obtain justice for victims of the most serious crimes, and help find a sustainable political solution in Syria. This will be possible only if the perpetrators are held to account.

On 23 September the then Minister of Foreign Affairs hosted an event during the UN General Assembly ministerial week entitled 'Accountability for Human Rights Violations by the Syrian Regime', at which he spoke about the Netherlands' holding Syria accountable. Many states attended online, showing support for the Netherlands' initiative from a major part of the international community. These states, and the EU and IIIM, expressed their explicit support for the initiative, and unanimously hailed this as a step forward in the matter of Syrian accountability.

In March 2021 Canada announced that it, too, would hold Syria accountable.



Stef Blok  @ministerBlok · Sep 23, 2020

...

The horrific crimes of the Assad regime cannot go unpunished. Very glad with the support we got during the [#UNGA](#) event I just hosted. Discussed our step to hold Syria to account, national prosecution, the importance of evidence and a victim-centered approach.



Stef Blok, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the Dutch-organised event on Syria during the UN General Assembly ministerial week.

8. A human rights-based approach to foreign trade and development cooperation



Highlights

- Dutch efforts in the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review and related negotiations on resolutions strengthened human rights-based approach in UN development framework
- Root causes relating to inclusive governance, access to justice and accountability mechanisms included in World Bank's new fragility strategy, thanks in part to the Netherlands
- Focus on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) included in UN COVID-19 humanitarian response plan
- Review of policy on international corporate social responsibility promoted implementation of UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) by business

Introduction

Dutch foreign trade and international development policy focuses on achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, also known as the 2030 Agenda), which are closely linked to human rights. There is every reason to link sustainable development and human rights. It has been demonstrated in practice that a human rights-based approach to development cooperation is more effective and leads to more sustainable results.¹ The main motto of the 2030 Agenda, 'Leave No One Behind', is upheld when development programmes focus on human rights principles like non-discrimination, participation and accountability. Foreign trade and development policy therefore promotes social, economic and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights, with a particular focus on equal socioeconomic opportunities for excluded and marginalised groups.

The human rights-based approach in UN development programmes and development banks

The Netherlands uses its position at multilateral development organisations to press for human rights to play a key role in development programmes. In the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR),

for example, in which the results of UN development programmes are evaluated, the Netherlands contributed to a resolution that will help UN development agencies apply a human rights-based approach in their work.

In the debate on reforming the UN development system, the Netherlands pressed strongly for a coherent approach by the various UN agencies when addressing inequality. Such an approach focuses on a human rights perspective in the planning cycle and in implementation.

At the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly's Third Committee, the Kingdom of the Netherlands supports resolutions calling for more attention to be given to human rights in the security and development pillars of the UN, acting with like-minded countries and through the EU where possible. In the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Netherlands increasingly linked human rights to the SDGs. The Netherlands and like-minded countries also support the OHCHR in fulfilling its mandate to integrate human rights into all procedures and instruments in the UN system. Furthermore, the Dutch contribution to the OHCHR core budget benefits the integration of the human rights based approach into the work of UN country teams.

¹ UN Secretary-General António Guterres, 'The Highest Aspiration: A Call to Action for Human Rights', on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, p. 3.

At multilateral development banks, too, the Netherlands draws attention to the principles of the human rights-based approach. At the spring and annual meetings of the World Bank, for example, it called for support for the very poorest, and for inclusive access to healthcare and social safety nets in response to the COVID-19 crisis. In a speech at the annual meeting on 16 October, the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation underlined the importance of strong accountability mechanisms in the work of the World Bank.

In February 2020 the World Bank presented a fragility strategy, after careful consultations with civil society, in which the Netherlands played a facilitating role. The strategy should prompt the World Bank to tackle root causes in fragile, conflict and post-conflict regions, including in terms of governance, law and inclusion.

The Netherlands also campaigned for a stronger mandate for the Inspection Panel, the World Bank's accountability mechanism. After three years of talks it was decided that the Panel's mandate should be expanded to include an independent mediation option for affected parties. Finally, the Netherlands contributes funding and know-how to ensure thorough integration of a human rights based approach into the World Bank's policy and development work.

Protecting the rights of vulnerable groups

A human rights based approach by definition prioritises vulnerable and marginalised groups. Displaced people and migrants experience considerable problems in terms of access to human rights. The Netherlands regards reception of refugees as a global collective good, and approaches situations of long-term displacement from a human rights perspective. It therefore provides both non-earmarked humanitarian funding and specific multilateral funding to guarantee refugees' rights to protection, education and means of support. The Netherlands works with governments in countries that receive refugees and mandated international organisations to protect the human rights of these particularly vulnerable groups.

The Netherlands also campaigned to improve respect for the rights of labourers, particularly migrant labourers, in Qatar. The House was informed of these efforts in a letter from the then Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Medical Care and Sport (Parliamentary Papers 33 750 V, no. 28, of 13 October 2020) concerning the implementation of the motion by MP Michiel Servaes et al. The Qatari government has introduced a number of reforms to improve the situation of migrant workers. Whether they are successful depends entirely on how they are elaborated,

implemented and enforced. The Netherlands made regular statements on the situation of labourers and migrant workers in Qatar throughout 2020, and is involved in several projects designed to implement labour reforms.

Access to justice is another key element of a human rights-based approach. Rights mean nothing, after all, if they cannot be secured. Following the example of the 2019 Hague Declaration on Equal Access to Justice for All, the Netherlands has therefore developed an access to justice strategy based particularly on the needs and rights of deprived groups in the Sahel and East Africa. The programmes improve criminal justice systems and access to justice for victims of gender-related violence. They also focus on developing one-stop centres, supporting legal staff and involving victims of large-scale human rights abuses in transitional justice mechanisms. The Netherlands supports a large number of initiatives for transitional justice, via the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), Impunity Watch, UNDP and other partner organisations, which centre on the rights of victims of conflict. In Uganda, for instance, the ICTJ has contributed to the recognition of the rights of children born during wars who often have no identity documents, with all the attendant problems.

A human rights-based approach can also promote sustainability. Indigenous peoples and local communities who depend on tropical forests for their livelihood benefit greatly from the preservation of these forests. They must be given the right to meaningful participation in decisions on forest management. One of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' strategic partnerships, the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA), therefore focuses on supporting these local communities. In the different country programmes the GLA supports the protection and sustainable management of 11.5 million hectares of forest, more than twice the land area of the Netherlands. In Ghana the Forestry Commission has accepted that non-governmental actors may officially report illegal logging and mining activities, thanks in part to the efforts of the GLA. In addition, GLA partners have joined forces with other civil society organisations to campaign for the preservation and planting of trees outside existing forests. In the Philippines GLA partners helped draft a bill that supports Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs). Once it is approved by the Philippine Congress, this will be the first law in the world to acknowledge the role of indigenous communities in the preservation and management of ICCAs. In Bolivia GLA supports legal assistance for indigenous organisations. It also informs them of their rights and strengthens their lobbying capacity to protect the forest from encroaching mining operations, agrocommodities and dams.

The Netherlands regards it as vital that the rapidly growing young population in the focus regions of foreign trade and development cooperation policy have prospects of a future with work, education, equal opportunities and security. The Netherlands not only invests in these sectors, but also strengthens the participatory rights of young people. In November it organised the Youth at Heart Virtual Forum to boost the international movement of stakeholders investing in young people's futures. Meaningful participation by young people was one of the main themes of the event, which was attended online by more than

1,000 people from over a hundred countries. It brought together young leaders, youth organisations, government representatives and other interested parties. The forum culminated in the presentation of a set of principles developed by young people. They are the result of research performed by young people, and reflect their ideas on education, work and participation, and how the international community can respond to their specific opportunities and challenges. Several high-level international decision-makers indicated that they would take on board the perspectives and views of young people in their work.



Opening session of the Youth at Heart Virtual Forum on 2 November 2020. Left to right: Sigrid Kaag (former Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, who hosted the event), Hajar Yagkoubi (former youth delegate to the United Nations and presenter), Rocky Hehakaija (director of Favela Street), Ikenna Azuike (presenter).

Access to MHPSS

In 2020 the Netherlands pushed for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to be integrated into crisis response in general and the global COVID-19 response in particular, including the UN's COVID-19 humanitarian response plan. This policy is based on the right of everyone to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as set out in international human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Consideration of the severe psychosocial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and measures to mitigate it, are crucial for the resilience of affected communities. MHPSS can help people regain a sense of self-worth, future prospects and control over their lives.

At the insistence of the Netherlands and with Dutch support, the Red Cross, the Red Crescent and UN humanitarian agencies worked on the structural integration of MHPSS into emergency assistance in 2020.

Dutch contributions and support allowed UNICEF to support the efforts of the Ministry of Sport and Youth (MOSY) and the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME) in Iran to provide remote help to vulnerable adolescents, young people and parents in response to the COVID-19 crisis. With the help of UNICEF some 126 psychologists, social workers and counsellors in 31 provinces received 18 hours of online training and clinical supervision on Remote Stepped Psychosocial Care and Support (ReSPCT) to enable them to provide remote psychosocial care and support for vulnerable adolescents,

young people and their parents. Thus far, 624 adolescents, young people and parents in 31 provinces have benefited from ReSPCT telecounselling services.

Right to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

The right to water, sanitation and hygiene is a prerequisite for a healthy and dignified existence. The COVID-19 outbreak has once again highlighted the importance of WASH, as hand washing with soap turned out to be an inexpensive way of reducing the spread of the virus. Using Dutch funding, UNICEF is supporting governments in eight countries, mainly in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, with coordination of their COVID-19 response. These efforts focus on promoting hygiene and access to the right to WASH at health centres and schools in order to prevent infection.

The Dutch WaterWorX programme aims to give ten million people access to clean water by focusing on improvements to water companies in Africa, Asia and South America in partnership with Dutch water companies.

People with a disability have extra difficulties exercising their right to WASH. UNICEF and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) have ensured that people with a physical, facial or mental disability in countries like Benin, Togo, Mozambique, Jordan, Iraq and Cambodia have access to adapted facilities, that their views are heard and that they can contribute meaningfully to decision-making. The authorities have received training in meeting the needs of people with disabilities. In its instructions for Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH), UNICEF has provided advice on furnishing inclusive MHH facilities for disabled girls.

Human rights in foreign trade

The Kingdom of the Netherlands seeks to prevent human rights abuses associated with exports of dual-use goods. A permit is required if there is a risk that exported goods might contribute to human rights violations. The granting of a permit can be made conditional on an internal compliance programme, which sets out what efforts a company is making to minimise these risks. Thanks in part to pressure from the Netherlands, other EU member states and the European Parliament, human rights risks connected with digital surveillance were included in the recast Dual-Use Regulation. This means that European companies will have to apply for a permit to export digital surveillance software to countries outside the EU. The recast Regulation is expected to enter into force after summer 2021.

The Netherlands also uses export credit insurance to promote human rights. One good example is the export credit insurance for the establishment of four agricultural training centres in Côte d'Ivoire by exporter Green 2000.

Under the human rights policy declaration used by Atradius Dutch State Business (ADSB) to assess export credit insurance-related projects, and thanks to the efforts of ADSB and the exporter, arrangements to protect human rights were agreed. Firstly, informal land users will be fully compensated for any loss of income as a result of the project. Secondly, local residents will be fully consulted, and thirdly, the impact of water abstraction during the project will be identified and mitigating measures taken to minimise the effects on other users of the water source. Finally, the project will attempt to prevent excessive lending to farmers.

The EU, too, works to promote human rights through trade policy. The Netherlands took the lead in negotiations to ensure human rights played a strong role in the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP), for example. The GSP is the conditional trading system that grants preferential EU tariffs to developing countries. These preferences can be temporarily or permanently withdrawn in the event of severe and systematic violations of labour rights and human rights. On 12 August 2020, for example, the EU temporarily withdrew some of the preferential tariffs for Cambodia because of serious and systematic violations of civil and political rights. In the nine countries covered by the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+), the Commission monitors the implementation of 27 agreement on labour rights, human rights, the environment and good governance. Physical monitoring missions have however been impossible due to COVID-19.

The EU always seeks to include agreements on labour rights in trade agreements. The trade agreement between the EU and Vietnam took effect on 1 August 2020. Prior to endorsing the agreement the EU called upon Vietnam to ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) fundamental conventions. In June 2020 Vietnam ratified ILO Convention 98 on the right to organise and collective bargaining, and ILO Convention 105 on the abolition of forced labour. When it agreed to the conclusion of the trade agreement, the Netherlands underlined the importance of ratification and implementation of the two remaining ILO fundamental conventions (numbers 87 and 105) in two explanations of vote, in accordance with the motion by MP Mahir Alkaya (Parliamentary Papers 21 501-02, no. 2125). It indicated that if Vietnam did not take sufficient action to ratify and implement the remaining ILO fundamental conventions according to the stipulated timetable, the Netherlands would call upon the Commission to investigate all options to address the situation, including dispute resolution.

International corporate social responsibility (ICSR)

In line with the coalition agreement 'Confidence in the

Future', policy on international corporate social responsibility has been evaluated and revised. On 16 October 2020 the government decided to focus on a mix of mutually reinforcing measures to promote the implementation by business of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The House was informed of progress in implementing the policy mix on 11 February 2021 (Parliamentary Papers 26485, no. 337). The key element of the new mix is a wide-ranging due diligence obligation, preferably introduced at European level, which is designed to make value chains more sustainable and improve the working conditions of workers in those chains. A European approach would have a greater impact throughout the chain and ensure a level playing field for companies.

European Commissioner Didier Reynders (Justice and Consumer Affairs) announced in April 2020 that a legislative initiative on sustainable corporate governance would be developed, including due diligence. The Netherlands is doing its utmost to influence developments to bring about a broad European due diligence obligation, including via a non-paper that was distributed among stakeholders at the Commission, the European Parliament and the member states. The Netherlands also played an active role in drafting Council conclusions on human rights and decent work in global value chains, which was adopted in December 2020.² Member states are calling on the Commission to present a legislative proposal on due diligence and to issue an EU ICSR action plan in 2021.

At global level, too, there is discussion of potential binding measures to curb abuses by or involving companies and offer victims of abuses good access to remedies. The Netherlands remains open to discussion of a legally binding global instrument, but underlines the fact that such an instrument must be appropriate to the objective in question and suitable for effective implementation and enforcement, and enjoy sufficient support. In line with the motion by MPs Mahir Alkaya and Isabelle Diks (Parliamentary Papers 35 300 XVII, no. 35), in 2020 the Netherlands entered into discussions via its diplomatic missions with countries that are not currently part of the negotiation process, to encourage them to participate. There currently appears to be no movement towards broader support for the agreement among like-minded countries that are not yet participating.

In the Netherlands, the issue of human rights and business was addressed in more than ten voluntary agreements on international corporate social responsibility (Agreements on International Responsible Business Conduct).

These agreements are being concluded on a sector-by-sector basis, with companies in each sector working with government, trade unions and civil society organisations to prevent abuses.

Two new initiatives were also launched. The new Dutch Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (DISCO) was launched in September. The Netherlands is to enter into talks alongside the cocoa industry with the EU and cocoa-producing countries to end all forms of child labour in the industry. The Netherlands also hopes to enable cocoa farming families to earn a living wage and put an end to cocoa-related deforestation and forest degradation. The parties – cocoa traders, cocoa processors, cocoa brands, supermarkets, government, financial institutions, warranty organisations and civil society – have adopted these goals for all imported cocoa in the Netherlands, which amounts to 1.4 million tonnes a year, or 20% of the global trade in cocoa.

The implementation of two major anti-child labour programmes, run by the alliance Work: No Child's Business and the ILO, began in 2020. The Netherlands was the first Western nation to sign up to ILO Alliance 8.7 as a pathfinder country. Alliance 8.7 is an international platform involving 236 multi-stakeholder partners which was established in 2017 to expedite action to eliminate child labour and forced labour. By exploring specific themes in greater depth, together with business, trade associations, employers' organisations, trade unions and NGOs, the Netherlands gives tangible shape to companies' efforts to live up to their responsibility to respect human rights.

² Council Conclusions on Human Rights and Decent Work in Global Supply Chains, 2 December 2020 (13512/1/20 REV 1).



The embassy in Dhaka seeks to give women more opportunities in the Bangladeshi textile industry. 'My life has changed thanks to the training course I took through the ILO,' says Akhlima, who was recently promoted to supervisor. 'I got the opportunity to develop, and my self-confidence has grown enormously.' Her story shows that women working in the textile industry in Bangladesh are being given more and more opportunities. This is thanks in part to support by the Dutch embassy in Dhaka for an ILO project that helps women pursue careers.

9. Peace, security and human rights



Highlights

- Importance of MHPSS in conflict prevention and peacebuilding mentioned in UN Secretary-General's Report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace thanks to Dutch efforts at 2020 UN Peacebuilding Architecture review
- Netherlands elected a member of the UN Peacebuilding Commission for 2021-2022
- Focus on strengthening and effective implementation of Human Rights Council's prevention mandate

Introduction

Dutch human rights policy cannot be seen in isolation from the country's security strategy. Security is not only a matter of the absence of armed conflict, but also of a people-centred approach to security that focuses on the interests of the public, sustainable and inclusive peacebuilding and protection of human rights. Physical and psychological integrity is an essential human right, which the Netherlands actively supports with its focus on protection of civilians, sustainable peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

Protecting civilians

The protection of the civilian population in armed conflict remained a priority for the Netherlands in 2020. The Netherlands continues to advocate at the UN for better protection of civilians to feature strongly in the mandates of peace missions and to highlight the importance of accountability and accountability mechanisms in the event of violations of international law, based on a victim-centred approach.

Bilaterally, the Netherlands works to protect civilians in conflict regions through partnerships with civil society. Its extensive, multi-year partnerships with PAX and the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC), financed from the Stability Fund, are intended to enhance the effectiveness of peace missions and security authorities in protecting the population. PAX and CIVIC study civilians' perception of

security and protection, train security actors and lobby multilateral institutions like the UN, EU and NATO for better policy on protection of civilian populations. In December 2020 PAX organised a three-day online conference called Protection of Civilians. It brought together researchers, people who work on the ground, and civilians living in conflict situations, providing a platform for them to share their knowledge and experiences in order to improve the protection of civilians all over the world.

The Netherlands also launched a strategic partnership with the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance in 2020, in order to improve the safety of civilians by training the police in human rights and prevention of gender-related violence, strengthening civilian oversight of security services by the media and human rights organisations, and facilitating dialogue between local communities and national and international security actors.

Finally, the Netherlands works for a world free of mines to reduce the risks to civilians. In 2020 the Netherlands funded projects in 13 countries to inspect and evacuate mined areas, dismantle and destroy mines, provide support for victims and their families, and educate people about the risks. At the end of 2020 the Netherlands took over the chairmanship of the Ottawa Convention, which aims to eliminate anti-personnel mines and help victims of landmines.



Women in South Sudan learning demining techniques. In 2020 the Netherlands worked with partners MAG, DCA and DDG, which removed landmines and helped victims resume their lives. Their work makes areas habitable again for civilian populations.

Sustainable peacebuilding

The Netherlands continued to work for sustainable peace and to promote stability. This involves making peace processes more inclusive, strengthening institutions, accountability and the rule of law, encouraging young people and women to participate in political decision-making and urging better funding of peacebuilding initiatives at the UN.

In 2020 the Netherlands took advantage of the UN's five-yearly Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture to encourage the organisation to use an interdisciplinary group of experts to structurally incorporate psychosocial factors into problem analysis and programming for peacebuilding. Systematic integration of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in peacebuilding is a key part of an effective, people-centred approach. For the first time, these efforts led to the inclusion of an intention to give more consideration to MHPSS in the UN Secretary-General's Report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, which was published in 2020. The Netherlands also increased its contribution to the UN's Peacebuilding Fund by €5 million, calling for a permanent focus on MHPSS in that framework as well.

In 2020 the Netherlands successfully stood as a candidate for membership of the UN Peacebuilding Commission in 2021-2022. Membership of this UN forum, on which 31 countries are represented and which focuses on peacebuilding in conflict and post-conflict regions, will enable the Netherlands to contribute at a high level to sustainable stability and peace in conflict zones and post-conflict zones, with a systematic focus on matters rooted deeply in Dutch foreign policy. These include the importance of constructive multilateralism, addressing the root causes of conflict (including inequality, failings in the rule of law and human rights abuses) and standing up for the most vulnerable groups in fragile situations.

The Netherlands also continued to emphasise the importance of improved collaboration between the UN, the EU, international financial institutions and other partners. One priority area for enhanced collaboration is peacebuilding and conflict prevention in fragile and conflict countries, including under the World Bank's new fragility strategy and the UN Peacebuilding Fund. Cooperation between UN agencies and with other organisations is a prerequisite in peacebuilding efforts.

In 2019 and 2020 the Association of Netherlands Municipalities' organisation for international cooperation provided training on issues like gender awareness and local governance. The Netherlands also supported inclusive peace processes, by assisting the work of the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs' Mediation Support Unit. A Clingendael Institute facility helped train mediators and negotiators to play a constructive role in peace processes worldwide.

Conflict prevention

Conflict prevention is one of the Netherlands' main focuses as a member of the UN Human Rights Council in 2020-2022. As part of its efforts to reach out and respond, the Netherlands works proactively with other countries to flesh out the conflict prevention agenda, with a focus on preventing new and recurrent conflict.

The then Minister of Foreign Affairs emphasised the crucial role of the UN Human Rights Council in preventing conflict in his speech at a high-level side event on 24 February 2020, which discussed strengthening the Human Rights Council's prevention mandate. At this meeting, organised by the Netherlands in collaboration with Rwanda and Fiji, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet also called for further implementation of the HRC's prevention mandate. This mandate enables it to play a crucial role in situations that have led to conflict, or threaten to escalate further. In his speech the Minister of Foreign Affairs discussed the important role of the international community in both preventing and addressing human rights violations.

The Netherlands played an active part in negotiations on a resolution entitled 'The Contribution of the Human Rights Council to the Prevention of Human Rights Violations', which the HRC adopted.³ The resolution offers useful instruments for preventing and ending conflicts.

Alongside an EU statement, the Kingdom of the Netherlands made a statement of its own emphasising the importance of multilateralism in preventing human rights violations, and how the COVID-19 pandemic is leading to greater inequality.

In 2020 the Netherlands and Germany organised the EU's Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) Forum. In doing so the Netherlands contributed to international cooperation and knowledge sharing on innovation for peace and security. In this forum, Europe is developing an integrated approach to conflict prevention. The Netherlands also organised the Data for Peace and Security Conference in 2020, where it was emphasised that big data is often used for conflict early warning. The Interdepartmental EWEA Working Group works to identify conflicts that might escalate. It also drafts conflict analyses and investigates potential courses of action to mitigate possible escalation or destabilisation.

Dutch support for the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (CHD), one of the Netherlands' partner organisations in promoting conflict mediation, yielded tangible results in 2020. After several conflict mediation attempts by the CHD, in 2020 a new peace agreement was signed by the Fulani and Dogon communities in Mali. The agreement focuses on protecting human rights, such as the right to free movement and respect for each other's faiths.

At the EU and the UN the Netherlands again called for the operationalisation of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle, which encompasses efforts to prevent genocide, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The Netherlands retained its role as co-chair of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect in Geneva, alongside Rwanda. Finally, in 2020 the Netherlands continued its financial support for the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect and the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation.

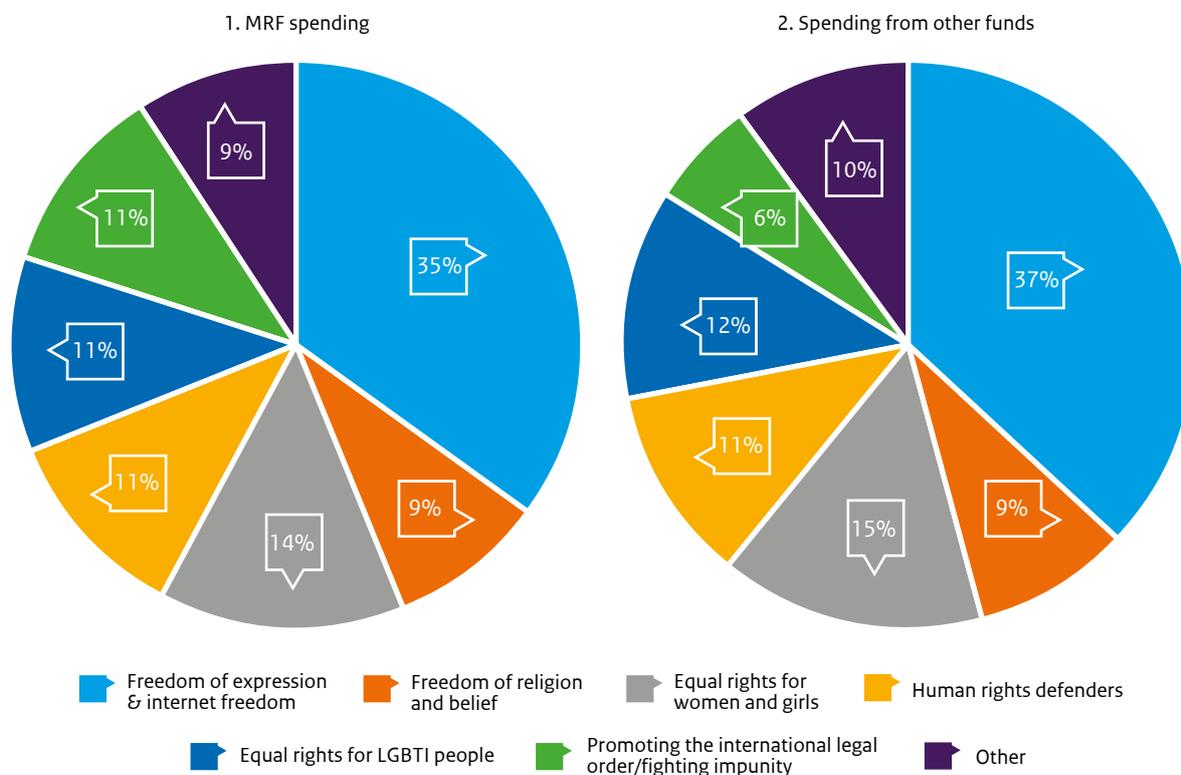
³ <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/45/L.32>.

Financial annexes: Expenditure by theme

1. Expenditure from Human Rights Fund (MRF) by theme.
2. Expenditure from other funds by theme.

The financial annexe provides an overview of Ministry of Foreign Affairs projects specifically intended to protect and/or promote human rights, financed from the Human Rights Fund and a number of other funds, including the SBE International Rule of Law, the Netherlands-MENA partnership (Shiraka), the social transformation programme Matra and Public Diplomacy.

In order to prevent duplication, it has been decided that projects funded by the Women and Gender Equality Task Force should not be included in the financial annexe that have been. A list of all these projects, including expenditure, can be found in the development cooperation results report at www.nlontwikkelingssamenwerking.nl/en, in the sector Women's Rights Organisations and Movements.



1 Expenditure from Human Rights Fund (MRF) by theme

Total, Human Rights Fund

Subject	Expenditure in €	Number of projects
Freedom of expression and internet freedom	18,601,684	131
Freedom of religion and belief	4,583,726	38
Equal rights for women and girls	7,813,139	126
Human rights defenders	5,856,863	62
LGBTI equal rights	6,052,388	62
Promotion of the international legal order / tackling impunity	3,081,880	37
Other		
• Human rights (general)	3,608,491	27
• Business and human rights	587,695	19
• Most serious breaches	207,675	5
• Other	541,866	30
TOTAL	€ 50,935,406	537

Theme: Freedom of expression and internet freedom

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Media Narratives on Conflict and Humanitarian Crises in Nigeria	37,915
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Creating Safe Spaces for Freedom of Expression Online	406,394
Accra, Ghana	Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone	Promoting Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists	180,695
Algiers, Algeria	Algeria	Confidential	13,675
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Internet Freedom in Jordan	13,212
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Increased Access to Information on Human Rights through Media in Jordan	37,917
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Exploring Equality and Human Rights with Podcasts in Jordan	166,540
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Digital Rights: Improving Human Rights Online in Jordan	146,082
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	ARIJ Investigative Incubator: Support to Investigative Journalists in Jordan	127,723
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Out of the Margins: Strengthening Independent Multimedia Journalism from Across Jordan	192,984
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Various projects [confidential]	127,468
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	World Press Photo	8,735

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Bangkok, Thailand	Thailand	World Press Photo	2,374
Bangkok, Thailand	Cambodia	Voice for Freedom of Expression and Freedom Online	40,248
Bangkok, Thailand	Thailand	World Press Freedom Day Event	3,302
Beirut, Lebanon	Lebanon	Amplifying Diverse Voices in Lebanon	149,258
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	I for Integrity - Documentaries Film Festival on Investigative Journalism	9,254
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Responsible Online - For Hate-Free Internet	20,070
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	Voices of Ferencváros - Strengthening the Civil Public Sphere in the 9th District	3,000
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	Slippery Slope - Developments in the Hungarian Media Landscape	6,000
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	Freedom to Express - EU Values and Rule of Law	6,000
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	Independent Journalism in Kecskemét and Bács-Kiskun	5,000
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Roma Awareness Foundation - Romana Patrin FM Radio	7,531
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Online Russian Language News Platform Newsmaker	14,072
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Boosting Support to Russian Language Independent Media and Media Literacy Efforts	151,374
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Support of Freedom of Speech, Independent Press and Opinion Pluralism	2,000
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Providing an Independent Source of Information and Promoting Human Rights Values by Widening TV8 Audience	70,300
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Promoting Social Cohesion by Language Study	26,860
Bucharest, Romania	Romania	World Press Photo	18,000
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	World Press Photo	13,750
Bucharest, Romania	Romania	Romanians' Right to Know; Combating Fake News	17,000
Bucharest, Romania	Romania	Last Week in Desinformation Tonight - Combating Fake News during Covid-19	20,500
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Strengthening Innovation and Research on Freedom of Expression	5,621
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	League Against Silence - Combating Media Self-Censorship	141,144
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Promoting the Safety of Popular Communicators in the Fight for their Rights	23,616
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Resumption of Civic Space: Monitoring Restrictions to Civic Space	27,782
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Building a National Protection Network for Journalists and Communicators	29,520
Bratislava, Slovakia	Slovakia	Strengthening Media Freedom and News Award	10,000
Bratislava, Slovakia	Slovakia	Kuciak Capacity Building and Advocacy	8,400
Bratislava, Slovakia	Slovakia	V4 Platform Journalists Discussion	2,000
Bujumbura, Burundi	Rwanda	Confidential	575,191
Bujumbura, Burundi	Burundi	Humanitarian Tools - Support to Local Media	350,541

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Fabrica de Cine IV	10,235
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Miradas Diversas	7,120
Dakar, Senegal	Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania	Africtivistes Civic Engagement Tour: Capacity Building Workshops on Civic Engagement and Social Transformation	24,104
Geneva, Switzerland (Permanent Mission to the UN)	Worldwide	4 Corners of Expression	6,531
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Strategic Litigation for Media Law Reforms	89,000
Havana, Cuba	Cuba	Confidential	163,491
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	UNESCO - Free, Fair and Safe Media Environment	77,526
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Team Muhafiz and Basila and the Street Crew	9,388
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Voice and Visibility	85,150
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Together for Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Media	62,500
Jakarta, Indonesia	Timor-Leste	Confidential	38,817
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Confidential	12,236
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Various projects [confidential]	118,634
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Radio Dabange - Phase Four	454,575
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Protection of Freedom of Speech in Eastern Ukraine	6,043
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Docudays UA - Promoting Human Rights through Documentary Films	7,211
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Crimea: Time to Fight for Rights	37,069
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	IZONE Radio	68,299
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Formula of Tolerance	60,625
Kigali, Rwanda	Rwanda	Club de la Presse - Radio and TV Talk Shows to Promote Freedom of Expression and Debate	100,256
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Enhancing and Protecting Civic Space and People Participation in the Electoral Context	712,000
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo	Democratic Republic of the Congo	World Press Photo	7,284
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo	Democratic Republic of the Congo	La Sécurité des Journalistes et Droit à l'Information au Nord et Sud Kivu	176,700
Kuwait City, Kuwait	Kuwait	Empowering Media Professionals on Reporting Responsibly on Human Rights Issues	42,600
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Confidential	1,311
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Strengthening Safety of Journalists and Professional Journalistic Standards	50,857
Maputo, Mozambique	Mozambique	Mirror Conference of the "World Press Freedom Day"	2,421
Mexico City, Mexico	Mexico	Article 19 - Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in the Digital Environment	12,956
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Enabling the Next Generation	5,100,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Safety for Media Professionals	477,500
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	AHORA: Safety, Justice and Journalism	125,353
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Access Now	663,136

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Resilient Information Spaces	443,364
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Justice and Safety Programme	361,720
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Access Now	47,357
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Advanced Freedom of Expression and Access to Information	8,472
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Where There Is Political Will	37,180
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Supporting UPR advocacy for Internet Freedom	308,487
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Digital Defenders Partnership	746,935
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Journalists' Safe Haven	120,100
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Various projects [confidential]	158,700
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Strengthening Digital, Legal and Information Security of Independent Media Organizations	7,309
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Independent Media School - Alternative Training of Journalists	30,550
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Kazakh Journalists Capacity Building - Enhancing Legal Literacy	24,675
Panama City, Panama	Panama	Webinar on Press Freedom in the Digital Age: Challenges and Opportunities in the Post Covid-19 Era	4,895
Paris, France (Permanent Mission to UNESCO)	Worldwide	Information for All Programme - Dutch delegation	10,165
Paris, France (Permanent Mission to UNESCO)	Worldwide	Multi Donors Programme on Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists	481,333
Paris, France (Permanent Mission to UNESCO)	Worldwide	International Programme for the Development of Communication	1,180,999
Beijing, China	China	Various projects [confidential]	286,026
San José, Costa Rica	Central America	Improving Journalists' Safety in Remote Areas of Central America	195,373
San José, Costa Rica	Nicaragua	Confidential	35,000
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Human Rights Day Sarajevo Film Festival	50,618
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	World Press Photo	11,000
Seoul, South Korea	South Korea	Confidential	24,479
Skopje, North Macedonia	North Macedonia	Free Citizens for Free Media - Investigative Stories	24,468
Sofia, Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Media without Fear or Favour	18,750
Strasbourg, France (Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe)	Europe	Support for the European Court of Human Rights	90,000
Strasbourg, France (Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe)	Europe	Platform for the Protection of Journalism and the Safety of Journalists	11,000
Tbilisi, Georgia	Armenia	Protecting the Rights of Journalists and Countering the Narrative Discrediting European Values	1,446
Tbilisi, Georgia	Armenia	Opening Gate to the Quality Media: Self-Regulatory Bodies	62,000

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Safeguarding Freedom of Expression in Accordance with ECHR Standards	73,707
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Quality Coverage of Elections; Editorial and Technological Solutions	75,449
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Support Democratic Values and Freedom of Information in Western Georgia	37,133
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	The Road to Your Right - Live without Violence	50,230
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Covid-19 and Democracy Reporting for Russian Language Users	25,000
Tehran, Iran	Worldwide	Confidential	67,500
Tehran, Iran	United States	Confidential	8,751
Tripoli, Libya	Libya	Strengthening Journalism and Gender Sensitivity Content	33,250
Tripoli, Libya	Libya	Human Rights Day Libya	10,503
Tunis, Tunisia	Tunisia	Protecting the Right to Information	3,936
Warsaw, Poland	Poland	Data Desk Reporters Foundation	10,000
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Solidarity Zone - Belsat TV	9,984
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Various projects [confidential]	333,281
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Enhancing Access to Propaganda-Free Information in Belarus	95,000
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Euroradio Support - Enhancing Free Flow of Information in Belarus	142,500
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Counterbalancing Disinformation - Communication Strategy Belsat TV	110,820
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	Confidential	5,000
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	Freedom of the Media Repository Program	95,000
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	Election Observation Development Program	80,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Education of Journalists in Conflict Areas	102,859
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Vital News and Reporting to Support Human Rights in Myanmar	106,194
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Investigative Journalism - Vital News and Reporting	30,271
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Strengthening Human Rights by Capacity Building and Research on Freedom of Expression	8,825
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Confidential	46,735
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Freedom of Expression by Legal Reform	19,135
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Journalist Education in Conflict Areas	86,219
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Equal Education: Teaching the Hidden History of Myanmar	90,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Free Speech in Conflict Areas	17,800
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Speaking Out - Voter Education during Elections	14,226
TOTAL			€ 18,601,684

Theme: Freedom of religion and belief

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Various projects [confidential]	77,996
Bucharest, Romania	Romania	Roma Image	19,950
Bucharest, Romania	Romania	Elie Wiesel Study Tour	2,000
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Fighting Intolerance and Racism on Religious Grounds in the State of Espirito Santo	3,933
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	In Memoriam 2021 - Anne Frank	2,121
Colombo, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Freedom of Religion and Belief Toolkit	25,037
Geneva, Switzerland (Permanent Mission to the UN)	Worldwide	Istanbul Process 2019	3,762
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Confidential	47,352
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Preserving Freedom of Religion or Belief in Pakistan	38,375
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Legal Aid and Advocacy for Minorities	62,384
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	EPIC III - Engaging Pakistani Interfaith Communities	31,459
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	SEEM - Social and Economic Empowerment of Minorities	16,933
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Youth for Interfaith Harmony in Pakistan	55,012
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Promoting Inter-religious Harmony in Indonesia	323,735
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Confidential	57,505
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Confidential	49,680
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Promoting Tolerance via Jewish History and Culture	5,430
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	STRENGTH - Online Campaign on Strengthening Religious Freedom	12,400
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Istanbul Process 2019	83,146
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Voices of Inclusion	426,357
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Middle East and North Africa	Countering Four Pillars of Discrimination	469,902
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Sub-Saharan Africa	Confidential	66,400
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Cameroon and the Philippines	Freedom of Religion and Belief in Cameroon and the Philippines	711,024
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	A Religious Mosaic	350,000
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Confidential	56,375
Nairobi, Kenya	Kenya	Countering Violent Extremism and Creating a Tolerant Society	91,506
New Delhi, India	India	Samadhan - Freedom of Religion or Belief Project on Sectarian Violence	9,208
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Freedom of Religion or Belief through Freedom of Expression	41
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso	Prévenir par le Dialogue; la Liberté Religieuse et de Croyance	492,387
Beijing, China	China	Confidential	67,640
Tbilisi, Georgia	Armenia	Towards Sustainable Reform: Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief in Armenia	40,514
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Bringing Anti-Discrimination Legislation in Practice: Capacity Training Local Governments	15,534
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue amongst Albanian Youth	4,899

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Washington D.C., United States	Worldwide	Protecting Belief: Rapid Response Fund	394,119
Washington D.C., United States	Worldwide	"Protecting Belief: Psycho-Social Support to Victims of Religious Persecution"	357,093
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	Forum 18 News Service	30,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Human Rights Education on Freedom of Religion	4,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Confidential	78,518
TOTAL			€ 4,583,726

Theme: Equal rights for women and girls

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	Feminister Viewing International Women's Day 2020 (cancelled due to Covid-19, non-reimbursable costs)	648
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Towards ending Child Marriage	177,504
Accra, Ghana	Ghana	Promoting Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Girls	134,845
Algiers, Algeria	Algeria	UNFPA - Appui de la Lutte Algérienne contre la Violence aux Femmes et aux Filles	127,559
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Tactically Advocating Equal Rights for Women in Jordan	5,606
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Understanding Gender Roles; Enabling Communities for Climate Change Adaptation Planning	7,981
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Improving Jordan's Microfinance Institutions Industry for Women	78,810
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Think Tank Creation on Capacity Building and Training on Equal Rights for Women	206,532
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	You have a Right, a Choice... Claim it!	462,648
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Various projects [confidential]	197,498
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	Confidential	17,800
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation	86,383
Baku, Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Addressing the Needs of Victims of Trafficking	12,000
Baku, Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Learn, Launch, Lead: Promoting Social Entrepreneurship as a Woman Empowerment Tool	5,993
Baku, Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Support to Women-Led Community Based Initiatives	66,816
Bangkok, Thailand	Thailand	MySis ChatBot Against Violence on Women	29,589
Bangkok, Thailand	Laos	Capacity Building and Advocacy of Women's Rights in Laos	25,000
Beirut, Lebanon	Lebanon	Confidential	103,131
Belgrade, Serbia	Montenegro	Investigative Research and Reporting: Women's Rights and Work	8,656
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Fight 4 Women	23,040
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	The Future is (Be)female	33,208
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Peer Education of Youth towards Prevention of Gender Based Violence	17,319
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	Countryside Women, Countryside Girls	4,000
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	Free - As Women!	6,000

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	What's up? Mi van veled? Awareness-raising on Modern Slavery and Exploitation	3,000
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Gender Equality in Territorial Peace Processes in Montes de María	36,945
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Resilience and Inclusion of Women in the Fashion Industry	24,600
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Migrant Women: Securing the Rights of Migrant Women in Conflict with the Law	18,809
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Marias in Action: Training and Empowerment to Prevent and Combat Violence and Discrimination against Women	15,252
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Safe Woman Platform: Access to Legal and Support Instruments against Gender Violence	24,885
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	Argentinian Civil Society Capacity Development in Gender and Sport	40,000
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	Capacity Building and Training for Women and Young People on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights	1,836
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	"Promotoras Territoriales"; Training of Women and Female Leaders	24,817
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	The Strengthening of Evidentiary Practices for the Protection of Genetic Evidence in Cases of Sexual Abuse	24,862
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	Capacity Building for Women in Virtual Environments; Training for the Ministry of Public Defense - Micaela Garcia Law	4,897
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	Coexistence, Inclusion and Gender; Bonds and Perspectives for the Future	17,110
Dakar, Senegal	Senegal	Promote Reproductive Health and Fight against Early Marriages, Female Genital Mutilation and Teenage Pregnancies	6,210
Dakar, Senegal	Senegal	Protection of Women and Children Victims of Violence	1,906
Dakar, Senegal	Guinea-Bissau	Sustainable Social Support and Reintegration of Girls Subject to Violence and Forced Marriage	4,783
Dakar, Senegal	Gambia	Awareness Raising on Harmful Traditional Practices and Sexual and Reproductive Health among Adolescents	4,805
Dakar, Senegal	Senegal	Films Femmes Afrique	22,867
Dakar, Senegal	Mauritania	Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Education to Adolescents	19,726
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	Tanzania	Breaking the Silence on Female Genital Mutilation	24,029
Dhaka, Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Strengthening Cervical Cancer Awareness and Services for Remote Northern Char Communities	6,420
Dhaka, Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Promoting Justice for and Understanding of Sexual and Gender Based Violence of the Rohingya Refugees	40,000
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Mitigating Violence Against Women in Political Spaces	131,284
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Gender Based Violence Protection and Access to Justice for Women and Girls	602,159
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Gender Champions Fund 2019	129,584
Havana, Cuba	Cuba	Female Inclusion and Diversity - Movie	1,638

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Havana, Cuba	Cuba	Empowering Female-led Agriculture Communities	25,883
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Countering Gender-Based Violence through Football	74,782
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Promoting Gender Equality in Indonesian Media	41,612
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Confidential	72,284
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Recognizing the Grassroots: Supporting Sudanese Women in the Informal Economy during COVID-19	259,249
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Response to Gender Based Violence in Sudan	2,739
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Civic Education at Girl's Schools - Fostering Girls' Participation in Politics and Leadership	60,030
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Almasheesh - Mitigating Female Genital Mutilation and Gender Based Violence	24,284
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Human Rights Agenda - Council of Women's Initiatives	56,448
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Invisible Women - Protection of Rights of Roma Women	76,011
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Combating Discrimination against Young Women in Sports	50,651
Kigali, Rwanda	Rwanda	Promoting Women's Rights through the Media	25,740
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Civil and Electoral Education for Women	1,585
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Human Rights Tulip Award	8,900
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	Girls for Goals	16,275
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	The Hidden Pandemic: Domestic Violence in Malaysia during Covid-19	760
Lima, Peru	Peru	Casa Refugio Amor Real PAT	25,619
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Creating Support Group for Women and Girls: Countering Sexual Violence and Sexism in Online and Offline Spaces	27,900
Maputo, Mozambique	Mozambique	Joint EU&UN Orange the World Campaign 2020	7,751
Mexico City, Mexico	Mexico	Migrant Shelter Hermanos en el Camino	65,703
Mexico City, Mexico	Mexico	From Victims to Defenders	48,063
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Karama - Evaluation	65,200
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan	Obligation to project - Agents of Change	81,416
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Various projects [confidential]	172,704
Nairobi, Kenya	Kenya	Haki Yetu Jukumu Letu; Combating Violence against Women	216,315
New Delhi, India	India	Violence Prevention of Survivors from Human Trafficking	4,437
New Delhi, India	India	Menstrual Pad Education, Awareness, Production and Sale	2,470
New Delhi, India	India	Go-Girls-Go Project	532
New Delhi, India	India	Elimination of Sexual Harassment	2,837
New Delhi, India	India	Beti Bachhao Beti Padhao - Gendercide Project	53,997
New Delhi, India	India	Training Unemployed Women in Jharkhand	36,147
New Delhi, India	India	Support of Tribal, Single Women and Girls	13,367
New Delhi, India	India	COVID-19 and Women and Girls Empowerment	6,731

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
New Delhi, India	India	Educate Arunthathiyar Adolescent Girls on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights in Tamil Nadu	8,386
New Delhi, India	India	Safeguarding and Improving the Human Rights of Trafficked Women and Children	18,288
New Delhi, India	India	Women's Consortium for and by Women: Reclaiming Space, Voice and Agency	33,431
New Delhi, India	India	Dalit Women - Manual Scavengers	18,390
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Gender Equality Gap among Healthcare Providers	50,397
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	WikiGap Kazakhstan 2021	13,733
Panama City, Panama	Panama	Capacity Building and Establishment of Gender Taskgroup	4,450
Beijing, China	China	Various projects [confidential]	1,163,657
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	Coalition Against Domestic Violence: Psychosocial Support and Practical Guidance	5,494
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	Commonwealth of Dominica	Training of Women against Abuse and Violence in Times of Crises	4,967
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Tsoga! Socio-economic Rights and Empowerment of Women	48,621
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Prevention of Gender-Based Violence	1,506
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Strengthening Rural Responses to Gender and Gender-Based Violence	55,200
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Dismantling Inequalities in Land and Education Rights for Women and Girls	51,000
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Building Leadership Skills, Social Cohesion, Economic and Social Rights for Women and Girls through Sports	83,426
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Gender Based Violence Photography Exhibition	600
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Rural Farmworker Khoisan Identity and Transformation - Empowerment for Female Farm Workers	17,885
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Dialogue on Gender Based Violence, Men and Masculinities	495
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Barcamp Innovative Solutions to Gender Based Violence	4,800
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Safe Sets - Sexual Harassment Training Videos	3,000
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	Marumo Fatshe Indigenous Healing - Gender Based Violence Project	24,000
Pristina, Kosovo	Kosovo	Decent Jobs for Women	47,971
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Renforcer le Droit des Femmes à Jouir de l'Espace Publique sans Discrimination	35,890
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Promoting Best Practices in the State Response to Sexual Violence against Women	90,628
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia	Confidential	13,608
San José, Costa Rica	Central America	Improve Environment for Women to Fully Exercise their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights	251,607
San José, Costa Rica	Central America	"Relicario": Women's Deaths and Reframing Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights	22,250
San José, Costa Rica	El Salvador	Human Rights Tulip Award Winner	16,234
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic	Covid-19 Response Kits	20,000

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Enhancing Women's Role in National Security	7,886
Tbilisi, Georgia	Armenia	Supporting Democratic Changes in Armenia through Preventing Domestic Violence	10,537
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Women in Democracies - Capacity Building	16,504
Tehran, Iran	Iran	Empowering Adolescents and Youth in Iran	532,530
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israel	Cracking the Glass Ceiling	46,721
Tirana, Albania	Albania	No Child Marriage	2,490
Tirana, Albania	Albania	SEE Women Empowerment	53,553
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Care and Dare	33,658
Tirana, Albania	Albania	World Press Photo	5,000
Tunis, Tunisia	Tunisia	Enhancing Women's Economic Participation	3,975
Tunis, Tunisia	Tunisia	Socio-Economic Rights for Women	2,126
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Confidential	92,481
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	WIN for Women and Men - Eliminating Violence Against Women	149,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for Women in Rakhine	40,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Women and Media - Increasing Role for Women	7,353
TOTAL			€ 7,813,139

Theme: Human rights defenders

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Various projects [confidential]	51,442
Baku, Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Confidential	10,000
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	"Zero Threshold Legal Aid"	5,000
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	Training Protecting the Mental Health of Human Rights Defenders	5,000
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Democracy and Human Rights Start with Human Rights Education	18,000
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Various projects [confidential]	72,478
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Ensuring Better Human Rights Standards in Moldova	45,000
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Autonomous Development, Effective and Peaceful Leadership	1,987
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Strengthening Capacities of Human Rights Defenders at Risk	24,532
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Promoting Peaceful Coexistence among Former Combatants and Communities	21,341
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Self-Protection and Security of Human Rights Defenders and Organizations	122,271
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Trust and Consensus Building: Conflict Transformation, Peaceful Coexistence, and Remedy in Cesar	62,309
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Temporary Relocation and Assistance for Human Rights Defenders at Risk	54,855
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Strengthening Reconciliation Processes between Former Combatants and Communities in Viota	21,548

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Protecting Human Rights Defenders in Rural Areas in Brazil	15,531
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Tackling Criminalization of Human Rights Defenders in an Urban Context	14,924
Bujumbura, Burundi	Tanzania	Confidential	58,650
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Confidential	18,230
Damascus, Syria	Turkey	Confidential	73,954
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	Tanzania	Confidential	23,000
Dhaka, Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Strengthening the Network of Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights Defenders	32,100
Dhaka, Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Confidential	7,490
Geneva, Switzerland (Permanent Mission to the UN)	Worldwide	Supporting Human Rights Defenders in Their Engagement with the UN	200,000
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Support to Human Rights Defenders in Zimbabwe	247,293
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Human Rights Tulip Winner Zimbabwe	1,032
Havana, Cuba	Cuba	Confidential	350
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Strengthening the Position of Environmental Human Rights Defenders in Indonesia	383,727
Juba, South Sudan	South Sudan	Confidential	451,515
Kabul, Afghanistan	Afghanistan	Afghanistan National Human Rights Award	3,516
Kabul, Afghanistan	Afghanistan	Human Rights Tulip Award	6,153
Kampala, Uganda	Uganda	Strengthening Protection Mechanisms for Human Rights Defenders in Uganda	471,660
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Alalag Press Services Center - Community Based Monitoring and Follow-up	26,673
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Human Rights Tulip Award 2019	2,876
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	The Greening of Participatory Democracy	42,656
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Local Human Rights Tulip Award 2020	34,962
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Reinforce Initiatives to Support Human Rights Defenders in the Kivu	152,789
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Confidential	129,834
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	Defender & Diplomat Dialogues	434
Lima, Peru	Peru	Solidaridad Azul	24,950
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Presenting the Human Rights Tulip	78,267
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Human Rights Tulip 2017	4,921
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Movies that Matter	100,257
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	OSCE region	Civil Society Advocacy on OSCE Human Dimension Issues 2020-2023	88,131
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Shelter City 2017-2019	47,433
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Holistic Protection - Integrated Security and Protection Capacity Development for Most-at-Risk Human Rights Defenders	308,750
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Burundi and South Sudan	Supporting Change Agents to Act for Human Rights	409,771
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Honduras, Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala	Improved Protection and Support to Human Rights Defenders in Latin America	44,541
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Various projects [confidential]	133,568

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Human Rights Course Online and Offline - In Russian and Kazakh	30,550
Beijing, China	China	Various projects [confidential]	507,864
San José, Costa Rica	Central America	Planet Protectors	180,963
San José, Costa Rica	Central America	Shelter and Resilience for Human Rights Defenders	89,988
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Shelter City Tbilisi	16,143
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Shelter Cities Tbilisi and Batumi	128,679
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israel	Safeguarding Israeli Democracy - Strengthening CSOs and Opposing Anti-Democratic Legislation	4,000
Tripoli, Libya	Libya	Strengthening Human Rights Defenders	6,690
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Various projects [confidential]	315,690
Washington D,C,, United States	North and South America	"Inter-American Commission on Human Rights"	249,200
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	Shelter and Resilience for Human Rights Defenders	4,000
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	Belarus	Netherlands Contribution to Moscow Mechanism for Belarus	1,394
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	Civil Society Advocacy on OSCE Human Dimension Issues 2020-2023	60,000
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	OSCE region	ODIHR - Increasing Effectiveness, Strengthening Enabling Environment for Human Rights Defenders	106,000
TOTAL			€ 5,856,863

Theme: LGBTI equal rights

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Various projects [confidential]	28,590
Baku, Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Confidential	9,110
Beirut, Lebanon	Lebanon	Confidential	142,953
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Intersex - Making the invisible visible	24,745
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	Support Victims of Lesbian Partner Violence	4,000
Budapest, Hungary	Hungary	JUST HUNGARY - Capacity Building and Awareness Raising of LGBTI Community and Professionals	3,000
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Faces of Tolerance	31,000
Bucharest, Romania	Romania	Queer Voices Film Festival	9,998
Bucharest, Romania	Romania	ACTING NOW - Defending Sexual and Reproductive Rights as Human Rights	18,000
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	"Strengthening the Strategic Response Capacity of the LGBTI Movement against Misinformation Campaigns"	76,179
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Empowering Transgender People for Better Access to Health Services	3,076
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Transgender People	102,872
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Small Activities on Equal Rights for LGBTI people	5,701
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Visibility to the Invisible: Greater Protection for LGBTI People	17,458
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	"Contrata Trans" (Hire Trans); Capacity Building	24,815
Dakar, Senegal	Senegal	Confidential	9,681

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Havana, Cuba	Cuba	Equal Rights for LGBTI - Awareness and Inclusion	2,118
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Olomopolo - After Noon	25,184
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Confidential	867
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Confidential	50,383
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Confidential	44,880
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Lviv - Becoming Human Rights City	5,509
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Journalists for Gender Equality and Equal Rights for LGBTI People	25,340
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Beneficial Diversity - Human Rights in Mass Media	50,034
Kigali, Rwanda	Rwanda	Fighting LGBTI Discrimination in Rwandan Society and Workplaces	23,760
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Enhancing Awareness and Protection of the Rights of LGBTI Persons and Defenders	86,687
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Empowering at-Risk LGBTI Youth	373,348
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Sub-Saharan Africa	Ending LGBTI Conversion Therapy	529,028
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Advancing Equal Rights for LGBTI People Amidst Closing Civic Space and Religious Conservatism	1,057,140
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Intersex International Human Rights Council	85,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	COC Nederland - Partnership for Rights, Inclusivity, Diversity and Equality	314,500
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Central America and Southeast Asia	Documentary M/F/X Outreach and Impact Program	26,600
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Strong in Diversity	540,872
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Various projects [confidential]	84,096
New Delhi, India	India	Transgender School Project	4,327
Panama City, Panama	Panama	LGBTI Community Capacity Building and Advocacy through Fundación Iguales	7,120
Beijing, China	China	Various projects [confidential]	604,026
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	'I Am One': Enhancing Sustainable Income for LGBTI People	1,040
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	LGBTI - Equal Rights! Lobbying and Advocacy Training	89,338
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa	House of Le Cap: Quarantine Ball - Marginalisation and Discrimination of LGBTI during Covid-19	2,850
San José, Costa Rica	Central America	"The Free to Be" Initiative; Contributing to Safeguarding Lives of LGBTI People (especially Transgender)	254,560
San José, Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Human Rights Tulip Award	141
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Pride Parade - Law on Public Assembly	35,595
Seoul, South Korea	South Korea	Korea Queer Culture Festival	376
Skopje, North Macedonia	North Macedonia	LGBTI Employment Equality Index for Businesses	41,798
Sofia, Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Dare to Be a Parent	18,475
Tbilisi, Georgia	Armenia	LGBT Community Building	37,800
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Capacity Building and Sensitizing Key Stakeholders	9,143
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Strengthening Inclusive Care	57,830
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israel	Supporting LGBTI Youth in Israel's Social and Geographical Periphery	41,280

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israel	Establishing an Israeli Arab and Druze LGBTI Organization	12,384
Tunis, Tunisia	Tunisia	Confidential	2,015
Tunis, Tunisia	Tunisia	Defending the Right to Difference and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination in Tunisia	345,200
Warsaw, Poland	Poland	Knowledge Gives Power	5,000
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Various projects [confidential]	49,500
Washington D,C., United States	Worldwide	Lifeline: Embattled CSO Assistance Fund	169,990
Washington D,C., United States	Worldwide	Dignity for All: Emergency Support for LGBTI Human Rights Defenders	250,000
Wellington, New Zealand	Pacific Region	ILGA Oceania's Human Rights and Law Reform - Oceania Rainbow Well-being	11,480
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	Macedonia	Helsinki Committee: LGBTI Rights and Freedoms in Macedonia	25,000
Vienna, Austria (Permanent Mission to the OSCE)	Russia	Confidential	45,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	LGBTI Inclusion - Promoting and Protecting Equal Rights for LGBTI	35,412
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	LGBT+ Photo and Film Festival	59,185
TOTAL			€ 6,052,388

Theme: Promotion of the international legal order / tackling impunity

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Accra, Ghana	Ghana	African Center for International Criminal Justice Two	91,337
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	Enforcing Rights: Increasing Parliamentary Committees and Independent Human Rights Commission Oversight of Human Rights in Iraqi Kurdistan	116,331
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Promoting Free and Fair Elections in Gagauzia	36,000
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Support for the Colombian Commission of Jurists	33,199
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Support to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Venezuela	237,500
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Proteccion de Derechos Humanos Laborales - 13a Comision de Encuesta de la Organización Internacional del Trabajo sobre Venezuela	20,072
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Various projects [confidential]	67,986
Colombo, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Anne Frank Exhibition	6,811
Colombo, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Access to Justice	38,000
Colombo, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Capacity Building Victims Awareness	20,853
Damascus, Syria	Worldwide	Demanding Action for Syria's Disappeared	144,508
Hanoi, Vietnam	Vietnam	Training Program on the United Nations Convention Against Torture	62,686
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	Improving the Implementation of International Law in Pakistan	425,978
Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan	UNODC - Strengthening Law Enforcement Capacity for Effective Service Delivery	27,308

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Confidential	272,866
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Supporting Democratic Transition, Peace and Law Reform in Sudan	44,343
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Cascade Access to Justice	48,339
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Access to Justice for Vulnerable Groups	6,607
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Fighting against Impunity 2019-2021	354,957
Luanda, Angola	Angola	Vamos votar!	53,360
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Support to Commission on Human Rights - Online Human Rights Education and Promotion Program	37,800
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Guatemala and Uganda	Strengthen Victim Participation in the Fight against Impunity	53,298
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	International Commission of Jurists	48,500
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Various projects [confidential]	141,294
Nairobi, Kenya	Kenya	Combating Impunity for Human Rights Violations	75,519
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Smart Pavlodar Initiative	6,414
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Anti-Corruption Interactive Map	4,023
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Impartiality Principle in the Judicial System of Kazakhstan	9,754
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Public Engagement in Anti-Corruption Review of Laws	50,055
Beijing, China	China	Various projects [confidential]	116,181
Pretoria, South Africa	South Africa and Botswana	Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Combat Violent Extremism	15,997
Seoul, South Korea	South Korea	"U bridge: Training on Transitional Justice for North Korea in the Netherlands and Germany"	24,995
Seoul, South Korea	South Korea	Confidential	24,845
Strasbourg, France (Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe)	Europe	Human Rights Trust Fund	200,000
Strasbourg, France (Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe)	Ukraine	Council of Europe's Action Plan for Ukraine	100,000
Strasbourg, France (Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe)	Georgia	Council of Europe's Action Plan for Georgia	45,000
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israel and East Jerusalem	Change in Israel's Detention and Interrogation Conditions for Children in Police Stations	19,164
TOTAL			€ 3,081,880

Theme: Human rights (general)

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Bangkok, Thailand	Thailand	Raising Awareness of Human Rights to Cease the Culture of Impunity	14,681
Beirut, Lebanon	Lebanon	Equality through Legal Action	268,100
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Arts and Human Rights Festival	15,350
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Anne Frank Educational Programme	93,457

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Values in a Crisis or Crisis of Values? Human Rights Values during a Pandemic	16,844
Geneva, Switzerland (Permanent Mission to the UN)	Worldwide	Contribution to Development of 'Image Authentication and Categorization Tool' by the High Commissioner for Human Rights	41,385
Geneva, Switzerland (Permanent Mission to the UN)	Worldwide	Strengthening the Prevention Mandate of the Human Rights Council - Side Event	500
Geneva, Switzerland (Permanent Mission to the UN)	Worldwide	Universal Rights Group – Human Rights Council Election and Membership	24,950
Geneva, Switzerland (Permanent Mission to the UN)	Worldwide	Universal Periodic Review IN-Country Programme	150,000
Geneva, Switzerland (Permanent Mission to the UN)	Worldwide	Participation of Small Island Development States in the Human Rights Council	49,832
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	The Damages of Dictatorship: Quantifying the Losses and Damages for the People of Sudan	169,929
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	Freedom Film Fest	3,906
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Saudi Arabia	Confidential	20,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Human Rights course 2020	21,936
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Human rights report 2019	1,873
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Capstone Projects - Improving Human Rights Courses for Education Institutions	58,750
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Roadmaps for Implementation of UN Treaty Bodies Decisions	30,550
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Human Rights Day 2020	821
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Le Cinéma - Plateforme pour la Promotion de la Culture des Droits de l'Homme et la Citoyenneté	47,809
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Israel and Palestinian Territories	UNDP - Civil Society Organizations for Inclusiveness, Democratic Governance and Human Rights	1,962,450
Sana'a, Yemen	Yemen	Documenting, Supporting and Advocating Human Rights in Yemen	544,328
Sofia, Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Safeguard Human Rights during Covid-19	750
Sofia, Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Prevention of Human Rights Violations during Covid-19	12,000
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Combating Far-right Extremism and Ultra Nationalism	7,338
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israel	Human Rights Consultancy 2019-2020	3,622
Tunis, Tunisia	Tunisia	Mobilizing Civil Society to Promote Human Rights and Democratic Reforms	2,834
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Confidential	44,497
TOTAL			€ 3,608,491

Theme: Business and human rights

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights in Nigeria	11,721
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Confidential	108,000
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Promoting the Respect to Diversity inside Companies	1,193

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	The Role of Brazilian Multinational Companies and their Commitments to Human Rights	2,172
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Company Accountability; Impact of their Operations on Human Rights	1,444
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Expanding Employability for Detainees and Former Detainees	4,247
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Human Rights in Construction: Research on Rights of Children and Adolescents in the Construction Industry	7,764
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Support to Implementation of Business and Human Rights Agenda	219,224
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Protection of Entrepreneurs from Illegal Takeovers	55,048
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Human Rights for Digital Tech	27,334
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	Business and Human Rights Conference	1,465
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Confidential	27,200
New Delhi, India	India	Female Agriculture Entrepreneurs	3,777
New Delhi, India	India	Rehabilitation and Economic Empowerment of Women in Gujarat to Combat COVID-19	19,893
New Delhi, India	India	Empowerment of Female Workers in the Informal Sector	13,242
Panama City, Panama	Panama	Entrepreneur Training Venezuelan Immigrants	2,225
Beijing, China	China	Confidential	36,446
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Confidential	12,000
Yangon, Myanmar	Myanmar	Creation of Centre for Responsible Business	33,300
TOTAL			€ 587,695

Theme: Most serious breaches

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Adaleh: Safeguarding the Rights of Detainees including Prevention of Torture Practices	6,040
Beirut, Lebanon	Lebanon	Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence including Torture	49,880
Bujumbura, Burundi	Burundi	Confidential	99,935
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Global Anti Torture Evidence (GATE) project	48,820
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Confidential	3,000
TOTAL			€ 207,675

Theme: Other human rights

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Algiers, Algeria	Algeria	Rencontre et Développement - Aid to Migrants from Sub-Sahara Africa	18,000
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	Together We Achieve Societal Co-Existence	10,000
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	Reintegration of Detained Children by Access to Qualitative Vocational Training	9,219

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Bucharest, Romania	Romania	School of Freedom; Education of Youth	22,950
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	Safe Schools: Free from Bullying	16,520
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Protegiendo la libertad academica y la universidad como actor clave de la reconstruccion democratica en Venezuela	3,311
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Liderazgo juvenil universitario: Promoviendo el derecho a la libertad de expresion, el acceso a internet y a la informacion para una mayor participacion de los jovenes en la reconstruccion democratica en Venezuela	21,396
Dakar, Senegal	Senegal	Vocational Training for Economic and Social Integration of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants from the Sub-Region Living in Senegal	3,084
Dakar, Senegal	Senegal	Support System for Street Children and Combating Forced Begging	31,557
Dakar, Senegal	Senegal	Training Teachers for Better Understanding of the Rights of Children	19,513
Dakar, Senegal	Gambia	Human Rights Training for Police Officers and Prison Officials	874
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Covid-19 - Various projects	25,507
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Youth Empowerment by Capacity Building and Social Change	25,597
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Countering Discrimination against Incurable Patients	5,546
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Protection of the Right of People with Disabilities to have Accessible Cities	11,498
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Receptor Approach Evaluation	10,246
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Bringing Marte Meo Parenting Programme to Russia	3,089
New Delhi, India	India	Program for Children Living on Construction Sites	1,681
New Delhi, India	India	COVID-19 Response Maharashtra	12,090
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Right to Healthcare for Vulnerable Groups during Covid-19	44,650
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	Coalition of Disability Rights Defenders	17,327
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Advancing Human Rights Jurisprudence in Morocco	69,172
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Formation du Personnel Pénitentiaire sur la Prévention de la Torture	4,204
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Palestinian Territories	Reconciliation Through Jointly Taking Care of Severely Disabled Children	7,793
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Palestinian Territories	Reconciliation Through Israeli and Palestinian Youth Dialogues	43,391
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Palestinian Territories	Various projects [confidential] to promote reconciliation	64,950
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Youth Countering Violent Extremism	3,695
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Civic Education Program for Secondary Schools	4,276
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israel	Social Responsibility in Arab Society in Israel against Violence	22,005
Tunis, Tunisia	Tunisia	Confidential	8,726
TOTAL			€ 541,866

2 Expenditure from other funds by theme

Total, other funds

Subject	Expenditure in €	Number of projects
Freedom of expression and internet freedom	13,868,762	40
Freedom of religion and belief	58,594	2
Equal rights for women and girls	1,302,824	55
Human rights defenders	11,565,076	12
LGBTI equal rights	571,989	28
Promotion of the international legal order / tackling impunity	7,145,577	25
Other		
• Human rights (general)	8,744,267	5
• Business and human rights	2,179,880	6
• Most serious breaches	126,805	3
• Other human rights	341,417	9
TOTAL	€ 45,905,190	185

Theme: Freedom of expression and internet freedom

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Various projects [confidential]	137,363
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Spotlight on the Serbian Media Scene	6,250
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Towards a Safe Environment for Free and Independent Journalism	44,790
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Digital Rights Action: Enabling Free Flow of Information and Media Integrity	53,262
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Strengthening of the Media and Information Literacy Education within the Formal School System	37,920
Belgrade, Serbia	Montenegro	Media for ME!	79,800
Bucharest, Romania	Moldova	World Press Photo	13,000
Bratislava, Slovakia	Slovakia	Checkbot against Fake News	2,000
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Latin America	World Press Photo Interactive Workshop: 'Watching Latin America - Freedom of Expression and Human Rights'	8,455
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Confidential	90,000
Dakar, Senegal	Mauritania	Le Journalisme pour les Droits de l'Homme et l'Éducation à la Citoyenneté	19,490
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia	Data for Human Rights Hackaton	10,914
Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines	World Press Freedom Day - Webinar on Press Freedom in South East Asia	4,984

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Juba, South Sudan	South Sudan	Confidential	982,831
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	World Press Photo Sudan	43,807
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia	Confidential	5,398
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines	3 May – World Press Freedom Day	2,670
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights - Freedom of Expression	1,000,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	World Press Freedom Conference	4,856,652
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	No News is Bad News	6,089,740
New Delhi, India	India	Digital India-Netherlands Cybersecurity Online School	5,000
Pristina, Kosovo	Kosovo	Empowering Media for Democracy	6,779
Pristina, Kosovo	Kosovo	CHIK - Advocacy Training Combating Hate in Kosovo	43,423
Pristina, Kosovo	Albania and Kosovo	World Press Photo Tirana en Pristina	6,810
Riga, Latvia	Latvia	Latvian Journalist Association - Independent Media	698
Riga, Latvia	Latvia	Independent Russian Language Media	8,000
Riga, Latvia	Latvia	Hate Speech Awareness for Professionals	10,000
Riga, Latvia	Latvia	Legal Protection of Journalists in Latvia - Capacity Building	9,675
San José, Costa Rica	El Salvador	Memory, Truth and Justice for Four Dutch Journalists Murdered in El Salvador	21,311
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia	Journalism as a First Draft of History	67,079
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Suppressing Hate Speech through Youth Empowerment	59,846
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	World Press Photo	12,082
Skopje, North Macedonia	North Macedonia	Empowering Parliamentary Reporters	4,249
Skopje, North Macedonia	North Macedonia	Safe Journalists for Credible Information	6,413
Tallinn, Estonia	Estonia	Patron of the World Press Photo Foundation	11,842
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Promoting Personal Data Protection in Georgia	62,200
Tbilisi, Georgia	Georgia	Privacy Rights in Georgia - NAAR PRIO FOE	17,244
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Constructive Journalism in Albania: Strengthening Social Pro-activity of Young Journalists	5,000
Tirana, Albania	Albania and Kosovo	World Press Photo	10,000
Tunis, Tunisia	Tunisia	World Press Photo	11,787
TOTAL			€ 13,868,762

Theme: Freedom of religion and belief

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Vilnius, Lithuania	Lithuania	World Press Photo	22,763
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	Capacity Building of Iraqi Journalists on Minority Reporting	35,831
TOTAL			€ 58,594

Theme: Equal rights for women and girls

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Programmes, Policies and Legislations for Gender Equality in Nigeria	38,776
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Protecting Women's Rights and Promote Gender Equality in Ekiti State	10,983
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Promoting Gender Equality and Accountability through Policy	23,420
Abuja, Nigeria	Nigeria	Increasing Advocacy Capacity of Young Women on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights	4,130
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Production Video Women's Day 2020	3,870
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Various projects [confidential]	12,956
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Filmmer - Women's Film Festival	7,500
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	Khanem Fashion - Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women	19,763
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Effective Policies and Unified Practice for Survivors of Domestic Violence	55,000
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	Hague Talks - Violence Against Women: What Can You Do?	13,907
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	Girlhood, not Motherhood	5,022
Colombo, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Activities International Women's Day	4,117
Colombo, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Stories of Female Sri Lankan Role Models	5,344
Dakar, Senegal	Senegal	Promotion of Gender Equality at Decision Making Bodies at Municipal Level	12,720
Dakar, Senegal	Guinea-Bissau	Keeping Young Girls at School	17,835
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	Tanzania	International Women's Day: Honoring the Unsung Sheroes	4,450
Hanoi, Vietnam	Vietnam	An Improved Legal Framework for Sexual Violence against Women and Girls	54,711
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence	9,019
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Gender Based Violence Documentary	890
Harare, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Women Empowered for Political Participation	134,591
Juba, South Sudan	South Sudan	Various small-scale activities	1,729
Kabul, Afghanistan	Afghanistan	International Women's Day Activities	3,071
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Confidential	20,000
Cairo, Egypt	Egypt	Confidential	277,047
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Favela Street Programme - Female Empowerment through Sports	76,961

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Khartoum, Sudan	Sudan	Empowering Migrant Women Economically through Equitable Access to Literacy and Diversified Livelihoods	40,100
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	NO to Violence and Gender Discrimination!	13,966
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Twenty Years Security Council Resolution 1325 - Women, Peace and Security	1,780
Kuwait City, Kuwait	Kuwait	The Hague Talk Kuwait 2020 - Would You Vote for Her?	6,469
London, United Kingdom	United Kingdom	Orange the World!	200
Luanda, Angola	Angola	Education and Empowerment of Women and Girls	50,000
Luxembourg, Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Orange the World!	1,716
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	"PINSAN 3D Strategy - Decriminalize, De-stigmatize and D-mystify Abortion in the Philippines"	78,158
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Asserting Rights to Land, Food and Resources	13,893
New Delhi, India	India	Orange the World!	7,304
New Delhi, India	India	Ending Sexual Harassment: Making Institutions Accountable towards Female Workers in the Informal Sector	9,915
New Delhi, India	India	Barefoot Negotiators for Equal Rights for Women	20,337
New Delhi, India	Bhutan	Amplifying the Voice of Rural Women for Inclusive Development	3,932
New Delhi, India	India	Ensuring Equal Rights for Women - Political Participation & Prevention of Violence against Women	4,014
New Delhi, India	India	Go-Girls-Go - Enhancing Agency of Adolescent Girls to Demand and Advocate for Equality	6,350
New Delhi, India	India	Male Youth Forums for Gender Equality	6,073
Rabat, Morocco	Morocco	Violences de Genre et Redevabilité envers les Femmes	8,389
Rīga, Latvia	Latvia	Protection of Women - Installing a Safety Button	1,197
San José, Costa Rica	El Salvador	Women's Health and Life in El Salvador	6,565
San José, Costa Rica	Nicaragua	Women and Teens, Breaking Gaps and Generating Change	83,778
San José, Costa Rica	Honduras	Advocacy and Capacity Building of Female Human Rights Defenders in Honduras	5,000
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Development of Gender Action Plan	16,262
Tbilisi, Georgia	Armenia	Empowering Women from Marginalized Communities	2,500
Tehran, Iran	Iran	TEDxTehran Countdown and TEDxTehran Fearless Women	1,000
Tirana, Albania	Albania	SHE Leads - Female Empowerment	80,000
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Security Council Resolution 1325 - Women, Peace and Security	5,000
Tripoli, Libya	Libya	Female Leadership Programme	1,043
Tripoli, Libya	Libya	International Women's Day Libya	5,000
Vilnius, Lithuania	Lithuania	Orange the World!	2,192
Warsaw, Poland	Poland	International Women's Day	2,879
TOTAL			€ 1,302,824

Theme: Human rights defenders

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Warsaw, Poland	Poland	Human Rights and Business Manual on Equal Rights for LGBTI	8,015
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	Photography of Human Rights Defenders - Breaking down Ethnic, Cultural and Religious Barriers	10,362
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Virtual Photo Exhibition - Human Rights Defenders Colombia	3,000
Juba, South Sudan	South Sudan	Confidential	566,869
Luanda, Angola	Angola	Space for Civil Society - Path to Justice	24,950
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Turkey	Confidential	499,936
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	CIVICUS Program Support	1,866,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Freedom from Fear	6,641,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	International Center for Not-for-Profit Law	845,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Digital Defenders Partnership	1,000,000
Pristina, Kosovo	Kosovo	TrueAktiv: Critical Thinking and Human Rights Program for Youth	38,500
Tripoli, Libya	Libya	Strengthening Human Rights Defenders	61,444
TOTAL			€ 11,565,076

Theme: LGBTI equal rights

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Various small-scale projects	5,292
Baghdad, Iraq	Iraq	Various projects [confidential]	169,100
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Remedy for Inequality - Access to Justice for LGBTI People	26,118
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Legal Gender Recognition	42,780
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Advocacy for Same Sex Partnership Law	26,149
Belgrade, Serbia	Montenegro	Adapting to Change - LGBTI Community in Montenegro	47,405
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Fiesta del Libro Medellín - LGBTI Participation	2,604
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Promoting the Rights of LGBTI Victims of the Armed Conflict	112,878
Brasília, Brazil	Brazil	LGBTI Film Festival 2020 - Online Edition	915
Bratislava, Slovakia	Slovakia	Various small-scale activities	6,000
Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina	'Contrata Trans' (Hire Trans): Capacity Building	1,298
Colombo, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Allies for Equality	7,305
Dakar, Senegal	Mauritania	Protection et Renforcement des Droits des LGBTI en Mauritanie	4,966
Ljubljana, Slovenia	Slovenia	Pride Festival Ljubljana - Living Library and Transforming Hate Speech	5,697
Mexico City, Mexico	Mexico	Coming Out Day 2020	3,521
New Delhi, India	India	Various small-scale projects	6,297
Nicosia, Cyprus	Cyprus	Various small-scale projects	1,750
Ottawa, Canada	Canada	Various small-scale projects	3,355

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Prague, Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Prague Pride Festival	2,084
Pristina, Kosovo	Kosovo	Advancing the LGBT Community's Position in Society	1,286
San José, Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Various small-scale projects	9,699
Seoul, South Korea	South Korea	Kissing Boys - Seoul Pride Parade	1,802
Singapore, Singapore	Singapore	Confidential	1,000
Tel Aviv, Israel	Israel	Support for local Pride activities and other small-scale activities	6,424
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Empowerment of Intersex People against Human Rights Violations	60,000
Tokyo, Japan	Japan	Tokyo Pride House	7,300
Warsaw, Poland	Poland	Various small-scale projects	3,305
Zagreb, Croatia	Croatia	Various small-scale projects	5,660
TOTAL			€ 571,989

Theme: Promotion of the international legal order / tackling impunity

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina	Model International Criminal Court - Western Balkans	39,724
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Supporting the Special Jurisdiction for Peace	68,215
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Participation of Women and Indigenous Victims in Integral Systems of Truth and Justice	142,023
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Empowering Families of Victims of Enforced Disappearance and Missing Persons	17,874
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Building Truth, Justice and Peace with Victims of the Armed Conflict in Urabá and Bajo Atrato	159,700
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Justice for Children and Adolescents Affected by the Armed Conflict in Colombia	139,736
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	Confidential	4,909
Caracas, Venezuela	Venezuela	OAS - the Special Follow-up Mechanism for Venezuela	26,175
Kabul, Afghanistan	Afghanistan	Support to the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission	445,000
Kyiv, Ukraine	Ukraine	Principle of Complementarity: Creating an Accountability Mechanism for Grave Crimes in Ukraine	97,700
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	6th International Dialogue on Human Trafficking	9,975
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Parliamentarians for Global Action	95,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Justice Rapid Response (JRR)	250,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Coalition for the International Criminal Court	95,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Central African Republic	Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic	222,500
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	International Commission for Missing Persons (ICMP)	500,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Iraq	United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL	500,000

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Addressing the Impunity Gap	299,986
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	International Digital Forensic Investigation	50,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Syria	Confidential	300,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - Capacity Building Accountability	2,000,004
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Mali	International Commission of Inquiry Mali	1,068,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Nigeria	Strengthening Justice for International Crimes	400,762
Tripoli, Libya	Libya	Human Rights Archive	106,039
Tripoli, Libya	Libya	Accounting for Missing Persons in Libya	107,255
TOTAL			€ 7,145,577

Theme: Human rights (general)

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Warsaw, Poland	Belarus	Confidential	5,750
Ankara, Turkey	Turkey	Confidential	125,344
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	5,150,000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies	2,499,999
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories	Palestinian Territories	Independent Commission for Human Rights 2017-2019	963,174
TOTAL			€ 8,744,267

Theme: Business and human rights

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Worldwide	Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights - Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	2,000,004
Dakar, Senegal	Mauritania	Projet de Lutte contre les Droits Travailleurs/ Travailleuses et les Libertés Syndicales	4,816
Manila, Philippines	Philippines	Business for Peace: Capacity-Building for Moro Islamic Liberation Front Communities	70,834
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Promoting and Enhancing Corporate Social Responsibility in Albania	19,526
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Integrity Compliance in Energy	24,700
Tirana, Albania	Albania	Collective Actions to Promote Integrity and Combat Corruption	60,000
TOTAL			€ 2,179,880

Theme: Most serious breaches

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Amman, Jordan	Jordan	Partnering for Torture Prevention	114,325
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Support for the Unit of Missing Persons for the Participation of Family Members	12,014
Moscow, Russia	Russia	Confidential	467
TOTAL			€ 126,805

Theme: Other human rights

Mission, country/region	Project relates to (country/region)	Project/activity	Expenditure in €
Algiers, Algeria	Algeria	Confidential	96,653
Belgrade, Serbia	Serbia	Lawyers for Human Rights - Free Legal Assistance	16,676
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Forced Disappearance in Guaviare and Boyacá	98,950
Bogotá, Colombia	Colombia	Policy Advice on the Colombian Peace Process	59,466
Colombo, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	Taboos - Online Talk Show	8,001
Luanda, Angola	Angola	UNDP - Enhanced Human Rights Capacity in Law Enforcement in response to Covid-19	44,500
Ottawa, Canada	Canada	Human Rights Podcast Series	6,647
Prague, Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Various Human Rights Festivals and Film Screenings	7,774
Riga, Latvia	Latvia	Whistleblower's Mechanisms and Handbook	2,750
TOTAL			€ 341,417

3 Parliamentary motions and undertakings referred to in the report

Parliamentary Paper	Main mover(s)	Subject	Chapter	Page
32 735, no. 291	Van Ojik	COVID-19 emergency measures	1	5
35 300-V, no. 33	Sjoerdsma	Press freedom, LGBTI equal rights and protecting religious minorities as a priority in the UN Human Rights Council	1	8
35 300-V, no. 35	Ploumen and Van Ojik	Strengthening the Human Rights Council	1	8
34 775, no. 44	Van der Staaij	Gradually phasing out separate item 7 on the HRC agenda ('Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories')	1	8
32 735, no. 290	Van Ojik [noot vertaler: naam verkeerd geschreven in het NL brontekst]	Human rights policy in relations with China	1	9
35000-V, no. 30	Ploumen and Sjoerdsma	Organising the World Press Freedom Conference	2	13
35 570-V, no. 48	Voordewind	Freedom of religion and belief	3	22
35 570-V, no. 30	Helvert	Intensifying efforts to combat impunity	7	42
32 735, no. 297	Ploumen	Impunity	7	42
33 750-V, no.28	Servaes	Sport events and human rights	8	47
21 501-02, no. 2125	Alkaya	Ratification and implementation of the ILO Conventions	8	50
35 300 XVII, no. 35	Alkaya and Diks	UN Treaty on Business and Human Rights	8	51
Date/reference number of undertaking				
16112020/DMM4		Undertaking by the foreign minister: to examine the position of non-believers in detail in the presentation of the annual Human Rights Report	3	19
16112020/DMM2		Undertaking by the foreign minister: to contact his UK counterpart to request cooperation on human rights issues, particularly in the area of non-believers, and to inform Parliament of the results	3	19
2018D51445		Undertaking by the foreign minister: to focus on freedom of religion and belief on 18 June	3	20
T/DOB-BZ/14-11-2019/3		Supporting The Gambia in the genocide case against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice	7	44

ParamariboAnkaraRabatBelgradoRabatAtheneHarareNewYorkAntwerpenBuenosBogotáKairoHarareLagosManaguaQuitoHamburgLagosColomboMexico
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RomeZagrebWashingtonAmmanAtheneLaPazMoskouAlgiersAbidjanParamariboMaputoManillaKinshasaBarcelonaCaracasManaguaBarcelonaLusakaAntwerpenSao
PauloBagdadLaPazParijsTorontoBrusselBerlijnPekingMontevideoAbuDhabiTelAvivLondenIstanboelAlmatyBangkokHelsinkiSanJoséParamariboAnkaraSaoPauloPretor
BangkokMilaanBamakoHoustonHarareBrasiliaKairoSarajevoBratislavaWindhoekZagrebBrusselRiyadMoskouAlmatyMaputoKarachiVancouverSantiagoDeChileTunis
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HongKongBogotáLuandaRabatTokioWellingtonTokioMoskouAlmatyMilaanHamburgTelAvivMontevideoMaputoAlgiersMilaanMontevideoVancouverAnkaraBarcelo
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